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**Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development**

## Flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

### Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report responds to a request made at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development for an annual report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It also complies with General Assembly resolutions 49/128 and 50/124, in which the Assembly called for the preparation of periodic reports on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The report examines expected levels of donor and domestic expenditures for population activities in developing countries for 2005 and provides estimates for population expenditures in 2006 and projections for 2007.

Donor assistance has been increasing steadily over the past few years, reaching US$ 5.6 billion in 2004. If this trend continues, donor assistance may reach as high as $6.9 billion in 2005 and may increase further to $7.8 billion in 2006 and to $8.6 billion in 2007. These optimistic estimates presuppose that donors will continue to increase funding levels. Many major donors have not yet reported their 2005 figures. A rough estimate of resources mobilized by developing countries, as a group, yielded a figure of $17.3 billion for 2005. This number is expected to increase to $18.7 billion in 2006 and $19.5 billion in 2007. These figures also presuppose that developing countries will continue to increase resources for population activities.

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Even if estimates and projections hold and the financial targets, of the Conference are surpassed, the resources mobilized will not be sufficient to meet current needs, which have grown dramatically since the targets were agreed upon in 1994. At that time, the population and health situation in the world was much different from what it is today. No one had foreseen the escalation of the AIDS pandemic. In 1994, 14 million people were said to be living with HIV/AIDS; in 2006, this number increased to almost 40 million. UNAIDS estimated that global resource requirements amounted to $15 billion in 2006, of which $8.4 billion is required for prevention and $3 billion for treatment and care. The financial targets of $1.4 billion in 2005 and $1.5 billion in 2010 (for prevention activities only) that were set by the Conference are far below these estimated requirements and should be revised upward to more accurately address current needs and costs, including those for treatment.

In addition, funding for family planning and reproductive health, which has been lagging behind, must also increase proportionately with needs in these areas. The challenge before the international community is to mobilize sufficient resources to meet current needs in all critical components of the Conference-costed population package in order to implement the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in response to a request made at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development[1] for an annual report on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[2] held in Cairo in 1994. The report is part of the work programme of the Commission and is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/128 and 50/124, in which the Assembly called for the preparation of periodic reports on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. The report reviews the flow of funds from donor countries for population assistance in developing countries[3] and provides estimates of government and non-governmental expenditures for population activities in developing countries for 2005. It also includes donor and developing country estimates for 2006 and projections for 2007. Data-collection activities for both donor and domestic resource flows were undertaken by the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) under a contract with UNFPA and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Evaluation and analysis of data were carried out jointly by the Institute and UNFPA.

**Methodology**

3. A detailed questionnaire was mailed to over 100 key actors in the field of population and AIDS, including major multilateral organizations and agencies, large private foundations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide substantial amounts of population assistance and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor countries, although increasingly, information from donor countries is obtained from the OECD/DAC database. In the absence of complete data from many of the major donors by the publication deadline, the information contained in the present report is based on estimates and projections, taking into account past funding behaviour, reported future expected expenditures and recent trends.

4. Information on domestic resource flows is based on data supplied by Governments and NGOs in developing countries throughout the world, secondary sources and estimation and projection techniques.

5. The external and domestic financial resource flows for population activities analysed in the present report are part of the "costed population package" as specified in paragraph 13.14 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The package comprises family planning services; basic reproductive health services; sexually transmitted diseases

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), annex I, sect. III.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] All references to developing countries in the present report also include countries with economies in transition.

(STDs)/HIV/AIDS prevention activities;[4] and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. The Programme of Action estimated that the implementation of this population and reproductive health package in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition would cost US$ 18.5 billion[5] annually by 2005. Approximately two thirds of the projected costs would come from developing countries and one third, or $6.1 billion, would come from the international donor community (para. 13.16).

## II. Donor assistance to population activities

6. For the first few years after the International Conference on Population and Development, there was little progress to report, as increases in funding for population activities were negligible. In 2000, population assistance stood at $2.6 billion, only 46 per cent of the financial goal of $5.7 billion agreed upon in Cairo as the international community's share in financing the Programme of Action of the Conference. Since then, there has been a slow but steady upward trend in the direction of a concerted response to bridging the funding gap. By 2004, donor assistance had increased to $5.6 billion. If the trend towards increased assistance continues, it is expected that the 2005 figure could increase to as much as $6.9 billion (see table 1). It is estimated that population assistance would have increased to $7.8 billion in 2006. If donors live up to their expected future commitments, funding is projected to increase to $8.6 billion in 2007 (see figure I). It should be pointed out that these estimates presuppose that donors will continue to increase funding levels as they did in the past few years. However, even though it appears that the target will be surpassed, the amount mobilized is significantly below actual needs, which have escalated far above those estimated in 1993, particularly for HIV/AIDS.

[4] Beginning with the 1999 round of questionnaires, the UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project began to include data on HIV/AIDS treatment and care so as to address the growing reporting needs of UNAIDS and because it was becoming increasingly impossible for respondents to provide information on HIV/AIDS prevention activities only.

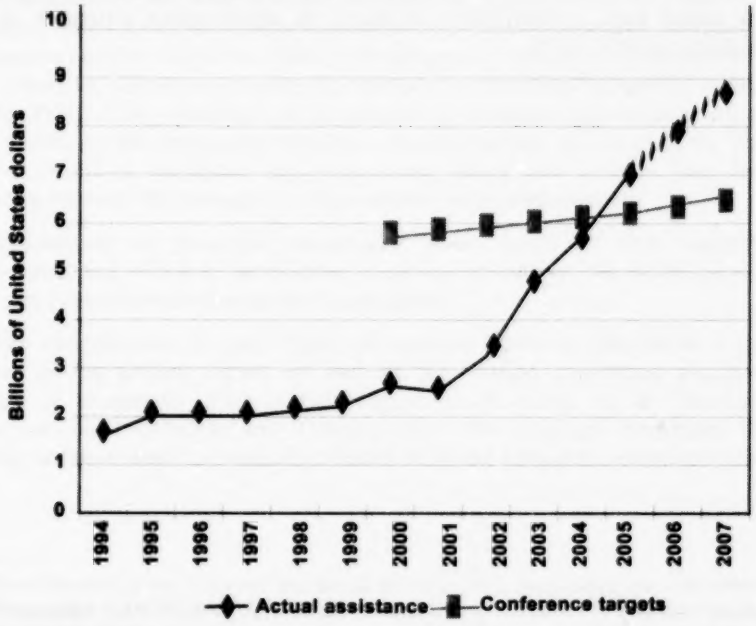
[5] All references to dollars signify Unites States dollars.

Table 1
**International population assistance, by major donor category, 2004-2007**
(Millions of United States dollars)

| *Donor category* | *2004* | *2005* | *Estimated 2006* | *Projected 2007* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Developed countries | 4 537 | 5 818 | 6 659 | 7 422 |
| United Nations system | 61 | 64 | 66 | 69 |
| Foundations/NGOs | 434 | 454 | 468 | 491 |
| Development bank grants | 227 | 239 | 246 | 258 |
| **Subtotal** | **5 259** | **6 575** | **7 439** | **8 240** |
| Development bank loans | 361 | 361[a] | 361[a] | 361[a] |
| **Total** | **5 620** | **6 936** | **7 800** | **8 600** |

*Sources*: UNFPA, *Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities in 2004* (New York, 2006); and UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project database.
*Note*: Totals may not add up owing to rounding. Data for 2005 are provisional; data for 2006 are estimates; data for 2007 are projections.
[a] Estimated at the 2004 level.

Figure I
**Population assistance as compared with targets of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994-2007**




(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to figure I)

*Sources*: UNFPA, *Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities in 2004* (New York, 2006); and UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project database.

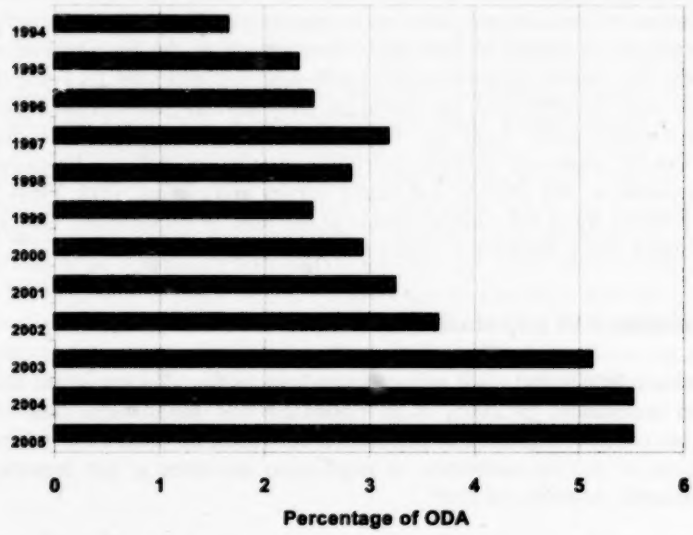
*Note*: Estimated 2006 and projected 2007 assistance is shown by broken line (- - -). Data on actual assistance for 2005 are provisional; data for 2006 are estimates; data for 2007 are projections.

## A. Bilateral assistance to population activities

7. Donor countries traditionally provide the largest share of population assistance. Bilateral assistance is estimated at $5.8 billion in 2005, up from $4.5 billion in 2004. According to preliminary estimates, donor countries provided $6.7 billion for population activities in 2006. Projections for 2007 place this number at $7.4 billion.

8. According to the latest OECD figures, the significant scaling-up of aid promised by donors at recent international meetings continues. Official development assistance (ODA) increased to $106.8 billion in 2005, up from $79.4 billion in 2004. Most countries registered increases. No significant change is expected in the percentage of total ODA that donor countries, as a group, contributed to population assistance (see figure II). This figure is expected to hover around 5 per cent, although there are significant variations between donor countries.

Figure II
**Population assistance of donor countries as a percentage of ODA, 1994-2005**




*Sources*: UNFPA, *Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities in 2004* (New York, 2006); and UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project database.

*Note*: Data for 2005 are provisional.

## B. Multilateral assistance to population activities

### Grants

9. Multilateral assistance to population activities is provided by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, mainly UNAIDS, UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Whatever the United Nations organizations receive for population assistance from OECD/DAC donor countries is considered to be bilateral assistance. Organizations' general funds not earmarked for population activities, interest earned on funds and money from income-generating activities that are spent on population activities are considered to be multilateral assistance for population. Funds received from developing countries that organizations spend on population activities are a small portion of an organization's regular budget and are also included as multilateral assistance. Multilateral assistance, which was $61 million in 2004, is expected to increase only slightly to around $64 million in 2005. Funding levels are not expected to change significantly in 2006 and 2007.

10. UNFPA is the leading provider of United Nations assistance in the population field, having provided support to 148 developing countries in 2005. UNFPA, which relies on voluntary contributions, uses the multi-year funding framework initiative that emphasizes management for results, tying programme support to policy development and linking the International Conference on Population and Development targets and the Millennium Development Goals in the context of poverty reduction so as to stimulate resource mobilization.

### Loans

11. Development banks, which provide loans to developing countries, are an important source of multilateral population assistance. Their contributions are treated separately from grants because their assistance is in the form of loans that must be repaid. The banks' projects reflect multi-year commitments recorded in the year in which they are approved but disbursed over several years. Most loans for population assistance come from the World Bank, which supports reproductive health and family planning service delivery, population policy development, HIV/AIDS prevention, and fertility and health survey and census work. Final 2005 data from the World Bank were not available at the time of publication. Hence, the figure is estimated at the 2004 level, which was $361 million.

## C. Private assistance to population activities

12. Foundations, NGOs and other private organizations are also important sources of population assistance. In 2005, it is estimated that foundations and NGOs contributed just over $450 million to population activities, up from $434 million in 2004. The level of private assistance to population activities is not expected to change significantly in 2006 and 2007.

## D. Expenditures for population activities by geographical region

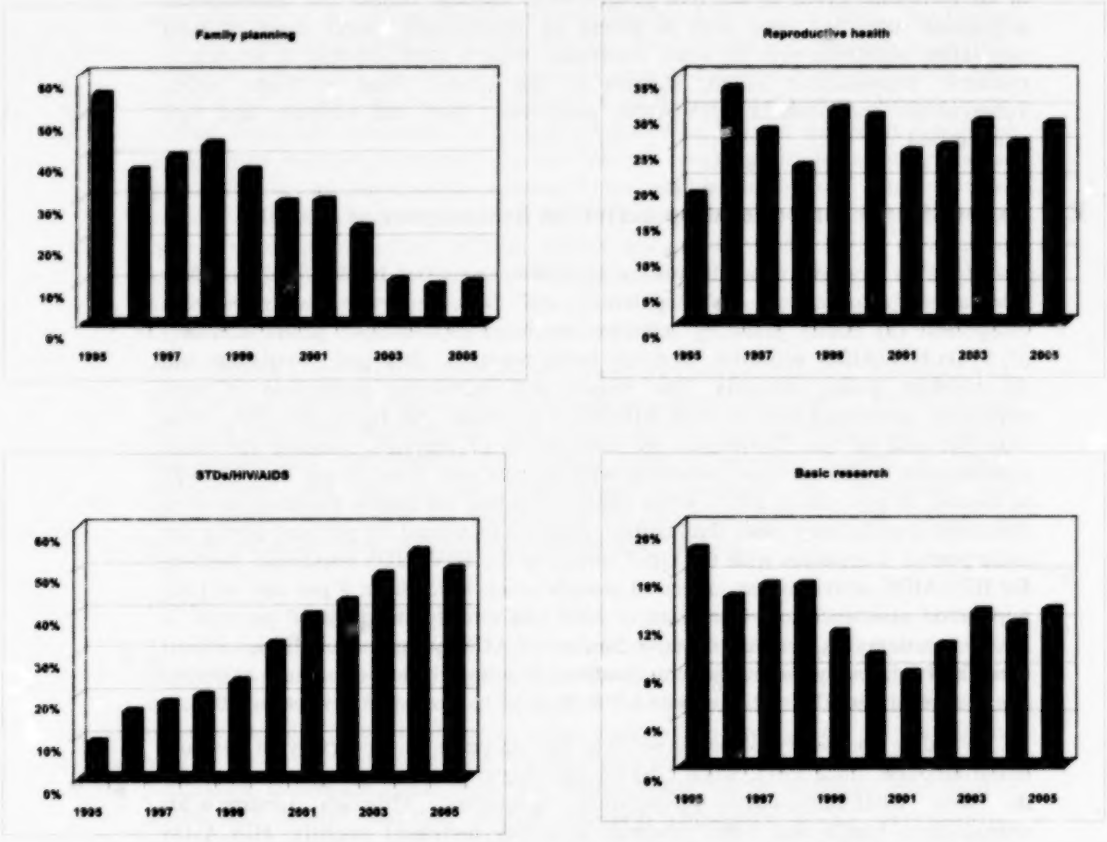
13. Sub-Saharan Africa, which includes the majority of the least developed countries, continued to be the largest recipient of assistance receiving more than half of all assistance given to the five geographical regions. Global and interregional population activities have been receiving an increasingly larger share of total population assistance over the years. Assistance went to such activities as advocacy; research; reproductive health; support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support; and safe motherhood.

## E. Expenditures for population activities by category of activity

14. UNFPA monitors expenditures for population activities by the following four International Conference on Population and Development-costed population categories: (a) family planning services; (b) basic reproductive health services; (c) STDs/HIV/AIDS activities; and (d) basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. The largest and increasing proportion of total population assistance goes to fund HIV/AIDS activities (see figure III). Consistent with the call of the Conference for integration of services, funding for basic reproductive health services increased, with fluctuations, from 18 per cent in 1995 to around 28 per cent in 2005, while explicit funding for family planning services decreased significantly, with fluctuations, from 55 to around 10 per cent during the same period. Consistent with the rapid spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, funding for HIV/AIDS activities has increased sharply since 1995, from 9 per cent of total population assistance to 54 per cent in 2004 and already stands at 50 per cent in 2005 even though a number of major funders of AIDS programmes did not report their final figures by the publication deadline. Funding for basic research activities has decreased with fluctuations since 1995, from 18 to around 13 per cent in 2005.

15. Funding for family planning services has decreased considerably in absolute dollar amounts since 1995, when UNFPA first began monitoring resource flows by the four Conference-costed population categories. Although funding for reproductive health and basic research activities increased slightly, HIV/AIDS activities received the largest proportion of assistance. Given the increased emphasis on addressing the global AIDS pandemic, including the Millennium Development Goal (Goal 6) of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases and the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, estimates for 2006 and projections for 2007 point to a continuation of this trend. In fact, donor countries are expected to continue to spend a large percentage of their population assistance on STDs/HIV/AIDS activities in 2006 and 2007.

Figure III
**Expenditures for population activities as a proportion of total population assistance, 1995-2005**




*Sources*: UNFPA, *Financial Resource Flows for Population Activities in 2004* (New York, 2006); and UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project database.

*Note*: The percentage going to HIV/AIDS is expected to increase as more data are received because many of the major funders of AIDS programmes did not report their final figures by the publication deadline.

16. The growing trend towards integration of services and the increasing use of sector-wide approaches in development assistance are making it increasingly difficult for countries to readily distinguish between expenditures for population and other health-related activities and, within population, among family planning, reproductive health and STDs/HIV/AIDS activities.

### F. Expenditures for population activities by channel of distribution

17. Assistance for population activities flows through a diverse network, moving from the donor to the recipient country through one of the following channels: (a) bilateral: directly from the donor to the recipient country Government; (b) multilateral: through United Nations organizations and bodies; and (c) non-governmental. The NGO channel continued to predominate throughout all regions in 2005. Population assistance is expected to continue to be channelled in large part by NGOs in 2006 and 2007.

## III. Domestic expenditures for population activities

### A. Methodology

18. The International Conference on Population and Development pointed out that domestic resources of developing countries provide the largest portion of funds for attaining population and development objectives. Domestic resource mobilization is therefore one of the highest priority areas for focused attention to facilitate full implementation of the Conference agenda. UNFPA has been monitoring domestic expenditures for population activities since 1997. This has been done primarily through the use of survey questionnaires sent to UNFPA country offices throughout the world for further distribution to government ministries and large national NGOs. Experience has shown that many Governments are often unable to supply the requested data because of funding, staffing and time constraints. In addition, countries that do not have well-developed systems for monitoring resource flows are unable to provide information, especially when funding is pooled in integrated social and health projects and sector-wide approaches. Furthermore, countries with decentralized accounting systems can only supply data on national expenditures and are not able to provide information on expenditures for population at subnational (lower administrative) levels.

19. Total global domestic expenditures for population activities presented in the present report are estimated using a methodology that incorporates the responses of the surveyed countries, together with prior reporting on actual and intended expenditures and secondary sources on national spending; and in the absence of such information, estimates and projections are based on national income as measured by the level of gross domestic product, which has proved to be the most influential variable explaining the growth of spending by Governments.[6]

[6] See Hendrik P. van Dalen and Daniel Reijer, "Projections of funds for population and AIDS activities, 2005-2007" (The Hague, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, 2006), Hendrik P. van Dalen and Mieke Reuser, "Assessing size and structure of worldwide funds for population and AIDS activities" (The Hague, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, 2004); and Hendrik P. van Dalen and Mieke Reuser, "Projections of funds for population and AIDS activities, 2004-2006 (The Hague, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, 2005).

## B. Estimates and projections of domestic expenditures

20. Table 2 presents estimates and projections of global domestic expenditures for population activities for 2005-2007. It shows a steady increase in domestic funding for population activities in all regions. It is estimated that developing countries spent $17.3 billion for population activities in 2005. The largest amount was mobilized in Asia ($11.4 billion), followed by sub-Saharan Africa ($2.5 billion), Latin America and the Caribbean ($1.7 billion), Eastern and Southern Europe ($869 million) and Western Asia and Northern Africa ($863 million).

21. Domestic expenditures are estimated to have further increased to $18.7 billion in 2006 and they are projected to increase again to $19.5 billion in 2007. Increases are expected in every region except sub-Saharan Africa. Asia is expected to continue to mobilize the largest amount of financial resources in both 2006 and 2007. Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to mobilize the second largest amount of funds, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. Western Asia and Northern Africa are expected to mobilize more resources than Eastern and Southern Europe in both 2006 and 2007.

22. About one third of all domestic expenditures for population are spent on STDs/HIV/AIDS. This percentage varies considerably by region. It is estimated that sub-Saharan Africa spent over 90 per cent of its funds on AIDS. Figures for Asia are low because data on out-of-pocket spending are not complete.

Table 2
**Projection of global domestic expenditures for population activities, 2005-2007**
(Thousands of US dollars)

| | *Source of funds* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Year/region* | *Governments* | *NGOs* | *Consumers*[a] | *Total* | *Percentage spent on STDs/HIV/AIDS* |
| **2005** | | | | | |
| Africa (sub-Saharan) | 1 105 126 | 84 922 | 1 331 722 | 2 521 770 | 91 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 4 105 481 | 90 634 | 7 173 312 | 11 369 427 | 15 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 1 049 767 | 59 828 | 545 619 | 1 655 214 | 80 |
| Western Asia and Northern Africa | 507 794 | 44 017 | 311 560 | 863 371 | 19 |
| Eastern and Southern Europe | 629 455 | 11 580 | 227 971 | 869 006 | 78 |
| **Total** | **7 397 623** | **290 981** | **9 590 184** | **17 278 788** | **36** |
| **2006** | | | | | |
| Africa (sub-Saharan) | 1 109 553 | 91 325 | 1 336 581 | 2 537 459 | 91 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 4 610 779 | 95 767 | 8 056 196 | 12 762 742 | 13 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 1 066 279 | 60 582 | 556 768 | 1 683 629 | 79 |

| Year/region | Source of funds: Governments | NGOs | Consumers[a] | Total | Percentage spent on STDs/HIV/AIDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Western Asia and Northern Africa | 515 256 | 42 225 | 316 138 | 873 619 | 19 |
| Eastern and Southern Europe | 630 488 | 11 780 | 228 345 | 870 613 | 78 |
| **Total** | **7 932 355** | **301 679** | **10 494 028** | **18 728 063** | **33** |
| **2007** | | | | | |
| Africa (sub-Saharan) | 1 056 886 | 87 547 | 1 274 098 | 2 418 531 | 91 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 4 907 807 | 90 235 | 8 575 179 | 13 573 220 | 12 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 1 078 783 | 62 595 | 565 401 | 1 706 779 | 79 |
| Western Asia and Northern Africa | 540 663 | 46 736 | 331 727 | 919 126 | 19 |
| Eastern and Southern Europe | 640 925 | 12 366 | 232 125 | 885 416 | 77 |
| **Total** | **8 225 064** | **299 478** | **10 978 530** | **19 503 072** | **31** |

*Sources*: Hendrik P. van Dalen and Daniel Reijer, "Projections of funds for population and AIDS activities, 2005-2007" (The Hague, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, 2006). See also Hendrik P. van Dalen and Mieke Reuser, "Assessing size and structure of worldwide funds for population and AIDS activities" (The Hague, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, 2004); and Hendrik P. van Dalen and Mieke Reuser, "Projections of funds for population and AIDS activities, 2004-2006" (The Hague, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, 2005).

[a] Covering only out-of-pocket expenditures and based on the average amount per region as measured by the World Health Organization (2004) for health-care spending in general. For each region, the ratio of private out-of-pocket to per capita government expenditures was used to derive consumer expenditures in the case of population activities.

## C. Components of domestic funding for population activities

23. Governments play a major role in financing population programmes. They are considered to be responsible for most domestic expenditures for population activities. However, since the level of government funding usually depends on the level of national income, Governments in least developed countries are least likely to be able to afford large outlays for population activities. Poor countries faced with many competing development priorities cannot afford to make the necessary investments in population. As a result, population issues are often excluded from social and health sector programmes because there is not enough funding to go around, or because of the emergence of new priorities without safeguards in place to ensure sustainability and expansion of existing programmes. National NGOs also contribute to the funding pool for population, but the majority of them are highly dependent on international resources. Their main role lies in advocacy work and in reaching people at the grass-roots level.

24. National Governments and NGOs are not the only sources of domestic expenditures for population activities. In fact, it is the consumers who actually spend the most. Private consumer expenditures account for a large percentage of total funding for health care. Although exact amounts of worldwide health-care spending for population activities are not known, it stands to reason that a significant proportion of expenditures for family planning, reproductive health and STDs/HIV/AIDS services are borne by consumers. The few available sources of information on private spending reveal great variations between regions and countries and, in some cases, changes over time in the share of private spending within countries themselves. In estimating consumer spending, the UNFPA/UNAIDS/NIDI Resource Flows Project used out-of-pocket health expenditures of households from the national health account figures as collected by WHO. The out-of-pocket health expenditures were assumed to be completely in line with out-of-pocket expenditures for population goods and services.

25. It should be pointed out that figures for 2006 and 2007 are dependent on whether Governments follow the expected patterns of spending, given past reported expenditures and levels of national income, and whether they live up to their commitments. Unforeseen factors such as natural disasters, conflict and political unrest can have a significant impact on domestic spending for population. However, such events can also serve to increase international assistance.

26. Although the global figure for domestic resource flows is a rough estimate, it is the most plausible estimate, given the fact that data are often incomplete and not entirely comparable. The information is useful in that it provides some idea of the progress made by developing countries, as a group, in achieving the financial resource targets of the Programme of Action. While the global total shows real commitment on the part of developing countries, it conceals the great variation that exists among countries in their ability to mobilize resources for population activities. Most domestic resource flows originate in a few large countries. Many countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries, are not able to generate sufficient resources to finance their own population programmes and rely heavily on donor assistance.

27. Results of the domestic resource flows surveys have two important implications: developing countries require a greater share of external assistance to finance their population activities; and better recording systems are essential for monitoring resource flows in order to assist donors and developing countries to identify funding gaps and to coordinate donor financing policies.

# IV. Resources for other population-related activities

28. The Programme of Action outlined a comprehensive population and development agenda. It pointed out that, beyond the costed population package, additional resources would be needed to support programmes that addressed the broader population and development objectives, including those that seek to strengthen the primary health-care delivery system, improve child survival, provide emergency obstetrical care, provide universal basic education, improve the status and empowerment of women, address environmental concerns, provide social services, achieve balanced population distribution and address poverty eradication

(paras. 13.17-13.19). No attempt was made to cost-out the resources required to achieve these broad population and development goals.

29. It should be noted that both donor and developing countries provide a significant amount of funds for population-related activities that address these broader population and development objectives but that have not been costed and are not part of the agreed target of $18.5 billion for 2005. Funding for such activities, since they are not part of the costed population package, funding for such activities is not included in the calculations of international population assistance and domestic resources for population. If the amount of the resources spent on these activities was added to expenditures for the costed population package, the overall level of support to the Programme of Action would be considerably higher.

# V. Major challenges in implementing the financial targets of the International Conference on Population and Development

30. *Resource mobilization is heavily dependent on a few key players.* Population assistance originates with a few major donors and the majority of domestic resources are mobilized in a few large developing countries. Most donor countries do not provide substantial funding for population activities and most developing countries are not in a position to mobilize sufficient resources to fund much-needed population and AIDS programmes. Poor countries are faced with many competing development priorities and many of them simply cannot afford to make the necessary investments in population.

31. *Consumers bear the lion's share when it comes to population expenditures.* Although not easy to track, the role played by consumers in mobilizing resources is much larger than usually assumed. In many cases, there exceed government and NGO expenditures for population. Although variations exist between regions and countries, if spending on population and AIDS activities is completely in line with spending on health in general, then it is safe to assume that consumers in developing countries pay more than half of the burden of population expenditures. Out-of-pocket spending by consumers, especially the poor, has important implications for policy initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and income inequality in the developing world.

32. *AIDS-related activities are receiving the largest share of population funding.* There is a pronounced shift towards funding for STDs/HIV/AIDS at the expense of other population activities, from under 10 per cent of total population assistance in 1995 to over half of all assistance 10 years later. It should be pointed out that the International Conference on Population and Development targets for 2005 called for 8 per cent of total population assistance for STDs/HIV/AIDS prevention activities, 62 per cent for family planning services, 29 per cent for basic reproductive health services and 1 per cent for basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. The increased funding for AIDS-related activities is expected to continue and to be especially prominent among donor countries. This funding is for prevention activities as well as treatment and care, including especially substantial amounts of funding for antiretroviral therapy. Since the Cairo financial targets include funding levels for prevention activities only, the achievement of the targets can be attributed in part to funding for antiretroviral therapy. The accounting

systems of many organizations make it extremely difficult to report on expenditures for prevention only. There are fears that the larger share of funding that goes to AIDS activities might distract attention from the necessary funding for the other three elements of the Conference-costed population package. This is especially evident in the case of funding for family planning, where absolute dollar amounts are lower than they were in 1995. If not reversed, the trend towards less funding for family planning will have serious implications for the ability of countries to address unmet need for such services and could undermine efforts to prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce maternal and infant mortality.

33. *Escalating current needs and costs as compared with original International Conference on Population and Development estimates*. The Conference financial targets were fixed over 10 years ago, with cost estimates based on experiences as of 1993. Since that time, the population and health situation in the world has changed dramatically. The HIV/AIDS crisis is far worse than anticipated; and infant, child and maternal mortality remains unacceptably high in many parts of the world. In addition, since that time, health-care costs have increased substantially. Furthermore, the value of the dollar in 2005 was far lower than it was in 1993. As a result, the Conference target of $18.5 billion in 2005 is not sufficient to meet current developing-country needs in the area of family planning, reproductive health, STDs/HIV/AIDS and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis.

34. *Population and reproductive health are central to development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals*. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders committed themselves to "(a)chieving universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, integrating this goal in strategies to attain the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS and eradicating poverty" (General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 57 (g)). The commitment of the international community to achieving the Millennium Development Goals needs to incorporate the Conference's universal reproductive health services target so that funding for family planning and reproductive health services is secured along with increased funding for HIV/AIDS.

35. *New aid environment*. The provision of aid is no longer business as usual. Given limited financial resources, issues of cost-effectiveness and programme efficiency are increasingly in the forefront. It is not sufficient for resources to be mobilized: both donors and recipients must make sure that the resources are used for the benefit of all, especially the poor. Coordination of donor policies and identification of funding gaps are also essential. In an effort to reform the way in which aid is delivered and managed, ministers of both developed and developing countries responsible for promoting development and heads of multilateral and bilateral development institutions committed themselves to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (March 2005)[7] to increase the impact of aid on reducing poverty and inequality, increasing growth, building capacity and accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The process of monitoring the Paris Declaration includes an aid-effectiveness review to help countries and

[7] Available from http://www.mfdr.org/sourcebooks/2-1Paris.pdf.

development assistance agencies share a common evaluation of progress and jointly direct action and resources to strengthen ownership, alignment, harmonization, results and mutual accountability.

# VI. Conclusion

## A. Progress in resource mobilization

36. Although provisional figures show that both donors and developing countries are on target ($6.9 billion and $17.3 billion, respectively, in 2005) and indeed may have surpassed the 2005 goal of $18.5 billion, this is misleading because the resources mobilized do not adequately address the current needs, which have escalated considerably since the Conference and which now include treatment for HIV/AIDS. Indeed, for many less developed countries that cannot generate sufficient resources, the lack of adequate funding remains the chief constraint to the full implementation of the Programme of Action and on attaining the goals of the Conference agenda.

37. The recent increase in the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action has been primarily a result of the increase in funding for HIV/AIDS activities, including both prevention and treatment. However, these increases still do not meet current HIV/AIDS needs, which are much higher than anticipated when the targets were set. Funding for family planning, which has been steadily decreasing, is below the suggested target of $11.5 billion in 2005 and is also not meeting current needs in this area.

38. The real concern is that the target amount will not be sufficient to address the current global needs in all four Conference areas. This is true even in the area of HIV/AIDS, where most of the increase in funding has occurred and where, according to the most recent UNAIDS estimates, $15 billion is needed in 2006 for a comprehensive package including prevention, treatment and care, support for orphans and vulnerable children, programme costs and human resources.[8] If not reversed, the trend towards less funding for family planning could undermine efforts to prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce maternal and infant mortality.

## B. Key areas requiring further attention

39. Implementing the Programme of Action, especially the reproductive health goal, is essential for meeting the Millennium Development Goals directly related to health and social and economic outcomes, especially those in the areas of children, mothers, HIV/AIDS, gender and poverty. It is essential that population issues figure prominently in national development programmes and poverty reduction strategies.

40. It is also essential that all Governments, of both donor and developing countries, recommit themselves to implementing the Conference objectives and to mobilizing the resources required to meet these objectives given current needs. Moreover, it is important to ensure that family planning and reproductive health

[8] See UNAIDS, "Resource needs for an expanded response to AIDS in low and middle-income countries", August 2005.

issues receive the attention they deserve at a time when the increased focus is on combating HIV/AIDS.

41. An effective partnership of donor and recipient countries based on mutual trust, accountability and donor coordination in support of country goals is essential to avoid duplication, identify funding gaps and ensure that resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible.

42. The private sector has an important role to play in the mobilization of resources for population and development, in monitoring population expenditures and ensuring that financial targets and equity objectives are met. Civil society, especially women's NGOs, can play an important role in trying to ensure that Governments achieve financial targets and equity objectives and that resources reach all segments of the population, especially those that are most in need.

43. A more efficient and timely monitoring system to report financial flows for population activities is essential. Currently, both donors and developing countries lag behind in reporting expenditures in this area. The most common constraints encountered include respondent fatigue, lack of human and financial resources and difficulty in disaggregating the population component in integrated social and health projects and sector-wide approaches and in disaggregating the four categories of the costed population package. Different recording practices and decentralized accounting systems also present significant challenges.

44. It is essential that the international community continue to mobilize the required resources to implement the Cairo agenda in order to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated to population and reproductive health in funding and programming mechanisms such as sector-wide approaches and poverty reduction strategies. It is also important to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to all areas of the Conference-costed population package: family planning services, reproductive health services, STDs/HIV/AIDS and basic research, data and population and development policy analysis. It is particularly important to reach the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Without a firm commitment to population, reproductive health and gender issues, it is unlikely that the goals and targets of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Summit will be met.

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## World demographic trends

### Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

Prepared in accordance with resolution 1996/2 of the Economic and Social Council, the present report provides an overview of demographic trends for the world, its major areas, the development groups and selected countries. The topics covered include population size and growth, fertility and contraception, mortality, international migration, population ageing and urbanization. The report also includes information on population policies and summarizes the concerns and views expressed by Governments with respect to major population trends.

The world population is expected to reach 6.6 billion in 2007 and may stabilize ultimately at about 9 billion people if fertility continues to decline in the less developed regions. Considerable diversity exists in the expected population growth at the country level. The population of many countries, particularly the least developed, is projected to increase markedly in the coming decades even if rapid fertility reductions are achieved. In sharp contrast, a number of developed countries are expected to see their populations decrease, largely because their fertility levels are expected to remain below replacement levels.

Most countries, both developed and developing, have experienced significant reductions in fertility as contraceptive use has increased. Today, almost all developed countries are experiencing fertility levels well below those needed to ensure the replacement of the population over the long run. Below-replacement fertility is also observed in a growing number of developing countries. However, the majority of developing countries still have fertility levels that ensure substantial population

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growth and in a small number of countries, most of which are classified as least developed, fertility levels continue to be very high.

One of the major achievements of the twentieth century was the major reduction of mortality, which was achieved almost universally. Until the 1980s, it was expected that mortality would continue decreasing in all countries. However, the emergence of the HIV/AIDS epidemic destroyed those hopes and the epidemic has been responsible for marked increases in mortality in the most affected countries, most of which are located in Africa.

In countries with low fertility, international migration has become an increasingly important component of population growth. It is estimated that in 2005, there were 191 million persons living in a country other than that in which they were born and that 60 per cent of these international migrants were living in developed countries. Female migrants constituted about half of all international migrants. Estimates-based censuses suggest that there are approximately as many migrants from developing countries in other developing countries (60 million) as there are migrants from developing countries in the developed world (62 million). Because of prevailing low fertility, international migration is making a major contribution to the growth of the population in the more developed regions.

The population of the future will be considerably older than it is today. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over will more than triple, passing from 705 million in 2007 to almost 2 billion in 2050.

The population of the future will be largely urban. In 2008, half of the world population will be urban for the first time in history. The number of urban dwellers, which grew rapidly since 1950, passing from 732 million to an estimated 3.2 billion in 2005, is expected to reach 4.9 billion in 2030.

In sum, the world is in the midst of an era of dynamic population change, reflected in new and diverse patterns of childbearing, mortality, international migration, urbanization and population ageing. The consequences of these population trends present opportunities and raise challenges for all societies as the twenty-first century continues to unfold.

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# I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of demographic trends for the world, its major areas, the development groups and selected countries. It reviews trends relating to population size and growth; fertility and contraception; mortality, including the impact of HIV/AIDS; international migration; population ageing, and urbanization. In addition, it discusses population policies and presents the concerns and views of Governments regarding the major population trends.

2. Demographic trends are discussed on the basis of the *2004 Revision of World Population Prospects*,[1] the nineteenth round of the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Data from the *2004 Revision* include estimates for the period 1950-2005 and projections for 2005-2050 for each of the 228 countries or areas in the world. The population projections are made using the components method, which requires that explicit assumptions be made about future levels and trends in fertility, mortality and international migration.

3. Data on urban, rural and city populations are derived from the *2005 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects*[2] prepared by the Population Division. The estimates and projections of the urban, rural and city populations are consistent with the population estimates and projections at the national level presented in *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision*.

4. Data on contraceptive use are based on the latest information included in the database maintained by the Population Division and published in *World Contraceptive Use 2005*.[3] These data include information on current contraceptive practice and on trends in contraceptive use.

5. Estimates on the number of international migrants are derived from *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2005 Revision*.[4] This dataset contains estimates of the number of migrants by sex for each country and area of the world since 1960 and provides estimates of the number of migrants as a proportion of the total population of each country at different points in time.

6. The information on population policies presented here is derived from *World Population Policies 2005*,[5] the biennial survey of population policies prepared by the Population Division. The monitoring of national population policies started after the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action in 1974 and has been carried out periodically since then. The policies monitored relate to the major population trends and the existence of time series on them allow both a description of the current situation and an analysis of changes over time.

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[1] *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision*, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.5); *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision*, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.6); *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision*, vol. III, *Analytical Report* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.7).

[2] *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2005 Revision*. United Nations Population Division, Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP/200.

[3] *World Contraceptive Use 2005*. United Nations Population Division, POP/DB/CP/Rev.2005.

[4] *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2005 Revision*, United Nations Population Division, POP/DB/MIG/Rev.2005.

[5] *World Population Policies 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5).

## II. Population size and growth

7. In July 2007, the world population is expected to reach 6.6 billion, more than two and a half times the number in 1950 (2.5 billion). According to the medium projection variant, the world population is expected to reach 7 billion by 2013, 8 billion by 2027 and 9 billion by 2048. The lengthening of the period required to gain each additional billion indicates that the growth rate of the population is expected to decline further. In fact, the growth rate has been declining since the late 1960s, when it reached a historical high of 2 per cent per year. It is currently 1.14 per cent per year and it is expected to fall to 0.38 per cent per year by 2045-2050 (see table 1).

Table 1
**Population, average annual increment and growth rate for the world, the development groups and the major areas, medium variant**

| | *Population (millions)* | | *Average annual increment (millions)* | | *Annual growth rate (percentage)* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Major area* | *2007* | *2050* | *2005-2010* | *2045-2050* | *2005-2010* | *2045-2050* |
| World | 6 616 | 9 076 | 76 | 34 | 1.14 | 0.38 |
| More developed regions | 1 217 | 1 236 | 3 | -1 | 0.24 | -0.10 |
| Less developed regions | 5 398 | 7 840 | 73 | 35 | 1.34 | 0.45 |
| Least developed countries | 796 | 1 735 | 19 | 22 | 2.30 | 1.30 |
| Other less developed countries | 4 603 | 6 104 | 54 | 13 | 1.17 | 0.22 |
| Africa | 945 | 1 937 | 20 | 23 | 2.11 | 1.21 |
| Asia | 3 996 | 5 217 | 45 | 10 | 1.12 | 0.19 |
| Europe | 728 | 653 | -1 | -2 | -0.07 | -0.37 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 576 | 783 | 7 | 2 | 1.29 | 0.22 |
| North America | 337 | 438 | 3 | 2 | 0.91 | 0.38 |
| Oceania | 34 | 48 | 0 | 0 | 1.15 | 0.45 |

*Source*: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: World Population Prospects DEMOBASE, extracted in 2007.

8. Overall population trends at the world level mask considerable heterogeneity among countries and regions. Developed countries are far advanced in the transition from high to low fertility and mortality and, because fertility levels in most of them remain far below the level needed to ensure the replacement of generations, many of their populations are either already decreasing or are expected to start decreasing over the medium term. At the aggregate level, the population of the more developed regions is projected to rise from 1.22 billion in 2007 to 1.25 billion in 2031 and then to start falling slowly, so that by 2050, it is still projected to be just under 1.24 billion according to the medium term projection variant.

9. In contrast with developed countries, most developing countries still have fertility levels that are above replacement level and therefore expect substantial population growth in the future. Thus, the medium projection variant indicates that the overall population of the less developed regions may increase from 5.4 billion in

2007 to 7.8 billion in 2050 (see table 1). The least developed countries, in particular, are expected to experience a near doubling of their population, passing from 0.8 billion in 2005 to over 1.7 billion in 2050, but achieving this level of growth is contingent on reducing fertility significantly in the least developed countries: from the current average level of 4.7 children per woman to 2.6 children per woman in 2045-2050. The enormous potential for growth that the populations of the least developed countries have today can be gauged better by considering that, if fertility were to remain constant at the level it attained in 2000-2005, their overall population would surpass 2.7 billion in 2050.

10. Future fertility levels are key determinants of the expected population growth in other developing countries, especially the populous countries of Brazil, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan. According to the medium variant, the population of these five countries considered jointly is expected to increase from 1.9 billion persons in 2007 to 2.7 billion in 2050. However, were their fertility to remain constant at 2000-2005 levels, the expected increase would be 1.1 billion larger and their population would reach 3.8 billion in 2050. A similar comparison for the less developed regions as a whole indicates that if fertility remained constant from 2005 to 2050, their overall population would reach 10.5 billion in 2050 instead of the 7.8 billion projected under the medium variant.

11. Today, the world population is increasing by 76 million persons annually, 73 million of whom are being added to the less developed regions (see table 1). By 2050, according to the medium variant, the population of the less developed regions will be increasing by 35 million persons annually, whereas that of the more developed regions will be declining slowly by about a million persons per year. Furthermore, whereas in 2005-2010, the annual population increment in the least developed countries would account for about 25 per cent of the total increment to the less developed regions as a whole, by 2045-2050, it would represent 63 per cent of that increment.

12. According to the medium variant, the population of 31 countries, most of which are least developed countries, is likely to more than double between 2007 and 2050. Four countries are expected to see their population increase by over 100 million persons, namely, India with an expected increase of 457 million, Pakistan with 140 million, Nigeria with 121 million and the Democratic Republic of the Congo with 116 million. Partly because of the rapid growth expected in many developing countries, more than half of them consider that their population growth is still too high. Among the 50 least developed countries, 50 per cent considered their population growth as too high in 1986 but by 2005, 80 per cent did so. That is, there is increasing recognition among developing countries that the further reduction of population growth is necessary to ease mounting pressures on renewable and non-renewable resources and on the environment and to facilitate the achievement of all major development goals.

13. In contrast to most developing countries, developed countries tend to be concerned about the prospects of population decline. According to the medium variant, the populations of 51 countries are projected to decrease between 2007 and 2050. In particular, the population of the Russian Federation is expected to drop by 30 million, that of Ukraine by 19 million, that of Japan by 16 million and those of Italy and Poland by 7 million each. Population decline and the associated

acceleration of population ageing are therefore important concerns in a growing number of countries.

## III. Levels and trends in fertility and contraception

14. One of the major demographic changes occurring during the twentieth century was the nearly universal reduction of fertility, especially in developing countries. In 1965-1970, total fertility at the world level was nearly five children per woman but by 2005-2010 it had reached 2.6 children per woman (see table 2). Reductions in the fertility levels of the less developed regions, from six children per woman in 1965-1970 to 2.8 children per woman in 2005-2010, were the main cause of the decline of fertility at the global level. By 2005, most developing countries were far advanced in the transition to low fertility, but 13 countries, most of them belonging to the group of least developed countries still exhibited no evidence of declining fertility. Furthermore, 44 countries were estimated to still have a total fertility above four children per woman in 2005-2010. High fertility levels, unless accompanied by very high levels of mortality, result in rapid population growth, which is particularly onerous for poor countries. For this reason, more than half of developing countries have policies to lower fertility and among the 50 least developed countries, 75 per cent report having such policies.

Table 2
**Total fertility in the world, the development groups and the major areas**

| | *Total fertility (average children per woman)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Major area* | *1965-1970* | *2005-2010* | *2045-2050* |
| World | 4.9 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| More developed regions | 2.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Less developed regions | 6.0 | 2.7 | 2.1 |
| Least developed countries | 6.7 | 4.7 | 2.6 |
| Other less developed countries | 5.9 | 2.4 | 1.9 |
| Africa | 6.8 | 4.7 | 2.5 |
| Asia | 5.7 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| Europe | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 5.6 | 2.4 | 1.9 |
| North America | 2.5 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| Oceania | 3.6 | 2.2 | 1.9 |

*Source*: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: World Population Prospects DEMOBASE, extracted in 2007.

15. The transition to low fertility started first in developed countries. Consequently, by 1965-1970, the more developed regions as a whole already had a low fertility of 2.4 children per woman. Over the course of the subsequent decades, fertility levels continued to decline, so that today most developed countries are experiencing levels of fertility that cannot ensure the replacement of generations. It

is estimated that in 2005-2010, some 85 countries or areas, including 53 located in the more developed regions, had fertility levels below 2.1 children per woman. For many of these countries, continued low fertility will result in the eventual reduction of the population and will accelerate population ageing.

16. The prevalence of low fertility is a concern for a growing number of countries. Among the 46 countries that consider their fertility to be too low, 28 are in Europe and 11 in Asia. Furthermore, 66 per cent of developed countries consider their fertility levels to be too low, up from 20 per cent in the mid-1970s.

17. High fertility during adolescence is an issue that many Governments are concerned about, because having a child too early in life not only may endanger the lives of mother and child but is also likely to reduce the choices women have to improve their standard of living, especially if early childbearing curtails their chances of improving their education. More than 80 per cent of developing countries and more than half of developed countries report having policies and programmes focusing on adolescent fertility.

18. Although contraceptive use has increased markedly since 1990, many of the high fertility countries still report low contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in union. At the global level, contraceptive prevalence among those women increased from 54 per cent in 1990 to an estimated 63 per cent in 2000. The fastest increases were in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, where contraceptive prevalence increased by more than 1 percentage point per year on average. The increase was less rapid in Asia, where contraceptive prevalence increased by 0.8 percentage points annually during 1990-2000. Nevertheless, contraceptive prevalence in Africa, at 27.3 per cent, remains far below the average for the less developed regions (59 per cent). In addition, among the 42 least developed countries with data, average contraceptive prevalence is estimated at 28 per cent.

19. Modern methods account for a large proportion of current contraceptive use, especially in the less developed regions where they account for 90 per cent of contraceptive use compared with 81 per cent in the more developed regions. The three methods most used are female sterilization, the intra-uterine device (IUD) and the pill, with prevalence levels of 21 per cent, 14 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. These three methods account for two thirds of contraceptive use worldwide.

20. Traditional methods are more popular in developed countries than in developing countries: they are used by 13 per cent of married couples in developed countries compared with just 6 per cent in developing countries. The most used traditional methods are rhythm (periodic abstinence) and withdrawal. At the world level, those methods are used by about 7 per cent of women who are married or in union.

21. Short-acting and reversible methods are popular in developed countries, whereas longer-acting methods are preferred in developing countries. In developed countries, contraceptive users rely mostly on the pill (used by 16 per cent of women who are married or in union) and condoms (used by 13 per cent). In contrast, female sterilization and IUDs, used by 23 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, of women who are married or in union, dominate in developing countries.

# IV. Trends in mortality, including the impact of HIV/AIDS

22. The sustained reduction of mortality, which started in the eighteenth century, gained momentum during the twentieth century as better hygiene, improved nutrition and scientific medical practices expanded mainly in today's developed countries. By 1950-1955, the more developed regions had reaped the benefits of such advances, reaching a life expectancy at birth of 66 years for both sexes combined. Since then, their life expectancy has continued to increase to reach 76 years in 2005-2010 (see table 3).

Table 3
**Life expectancy at birth for both sexes combined in the world, the development groups and the major areas**

| | *Life expectancy at birth for both sexes (years)* | | | | *Average annual increase (years)* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Major area* | *1950-1955* | *1990-1995* | *2005-2010* | *2045-2050* | *1950-1955 to 1990-1995* | *1990-1995 to 2005-2010* | *2005-2010 to 2045-2050* |
| World | 46.6 | 63.7 | 66.5 | 75.1 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| More developed regions | 66.1 | 74.0 | 76.2 | 82.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Less developed regions | 41.1 | 61.5 | 64.6 | 74.0 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Least developed countries | 36.1 | 49.4 | 52.5 | 66.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Other less developed countries | 41.9 | 63.8 | 67.3 | 76.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Africa | 38.4 | 50.8 | 49.9 | 65.4 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 0.4 |
| Asia | 41.4 | 64.0 | 68.8 | 77.2 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Europe | 65.6 | 72.6 | 74.3 | 80.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 51.4 | 68.3 | 72.9 | 79.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| North America | 68.8 | 75.5 | 78.2 | 82.7 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| Oceania | 60.4 | 71.5 | 75.1 | 81.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 |

*Source*: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: World Population Prospects DEMOBASE, extracted in 2007.

23. The mid-century marked an important turning point in the less developed regions. With the expanded use of antibiotics, vaccines and insecticides, mortality in the developing world declined rapidly. Consequently, life expectancy at birth in the less developed regions increased from 41 years in 1950-1955 to 65 in 2005-2010. Therefore, the gap in life expectancy between the developed and the developing world narrowed, from 25 years in 1950-1955 to 12 years in 2005-2010. However, in the least developed countries, the reduction of mortality has not kept pace with the changes occurring elsewhere in the developing world. Thus, life expectancy in the least developed countries increased from 36 years in 1950-1955 to 53 years in 2005-2010, implying that the difference in life expectancy between them and the less developed regions as a whole increased from five years in the early 1950s to 12 years today. The main cause for such divergence is that 31 of the 50 least developed countries are highly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

24. Indeed, the emergence of the virus that causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the worldwide pandemic that it has generated have already produced marked increases in mortality in the countries most affected by the disease. In 2005, an estimated 40 million people were living with HIV and more than 90 per cent of them lived in developing countries, with sub-Saharan Africa alone being home to two thirds of all infected persons. Furthermore, the number of countries with significant levels of HIV prevalence has been growing in other major areas, particularly in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. While it is not yet certain that the spread of the disease in those major areas might follow the devastating pattern observed in Africa, rapid and effective responses are required to avert a similar scenario in other regions. Clearly, concern about the impact of HIV/AIDS has been increasing. Thus, almost 90 per cent of developing countries report that AIDS is a major cause of concern, as do nearly all the least developed countries. Concern has also been substantial in developed countries, 75 per cent of which view AIDS as a major concern.

25. With regard to gender differences in mortality, by 2005-2010, female life expectancy was higher than male life expectancy in all regions, although the difference between the two was relatively small in South-Central Asia. Since 1950, female life expectancy increased more than male life expectancy in Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. In contrast, in Africa, North America and Oceania, the female advantage remained relatively unchanged or declined. In Europe, females made the greatest gains with respect to males, whereas in Africa males made the greatest gains with respect to females.

26. Because differences in life expectancy are still high between developed and developing countries, the views of Governments about the adequacy of mortality levels vary according to development group. Thus, about 65 per cent of developed countries consider their life expectancy levels to be acceptable, but just 36 per cent of developing countries do so, and none of the least developed countries are in that category.

27. In many countries, some segments of the population, particularly infants and children under age 5, continue to experience unacceptably high mortality levels and require special policy attention. Maternal mortality is another serious concern in developing countries, particularly in the least developed. Just 20 per cent of developing countries consider their levels of maternal mortality acceptable, while about 66 per cent of developed countries do so. Only two of the least developed countries consider their levels of maternal mortality to be acceptable.

28. Continued reductions in mortality are projected for most regions of the world so that life expectancy in some of them is projected to reach levels unprecedented in human history. However, for the least developed countries, even the substantial reductions expected to take place during 2005-2050 are unlikely to eliminate the gap in survivorship that exists between them and the rest of the developing world. Moreover, given the setbacks that have occurred recently in many countries, there is considerable uncertainty about whether the improvements projected may be achieved.

# V. International migration

29. In 2005, there were 191 million migrants in the world: 115 million in developed countries and 75 million in developing countries (see table 4). These figures reflect the number of foreign-born persons, that is, persons living outside their country of birth. Between 1990 and 2005, the world's migrant stock, including refugees, rose by 36 million, from 155 million to 191 million. The growth rate of the migrant stock has been accelerating, increasing from 1.4 per cent in 1990-1995 to 1.9 per cent in 2000-2004. In developed countries, the number of international migrants increased by 33 million between 1990 and 2005, whereas in developing countries the increase was barely 3 million. Consequently, in 2005, 61 per cent of all international migrants lived in developed countries. Europe alone had 34 per cent; North America, 23 per cent; and Asia, 28 per cent. Africa had just 9 per cent and Latin America and the Caribbean, 4 per cent.

Table 4
**Estimated number of international migrants and their percentage distribution by major area, including percentage of female migrants**

| | *Number of international migrants (millions)* | | *Increment (millions)* | *Percentage distribution of international migrants* | | *Percentage of female migrants* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Major area* | *1990* | *2005* | *1990-2005* | *1990* | *2005* | *1990* | *2005* |
| World | 154.8 | 190.6 | 35.8 | 100 | 100 | 49.0 | 49.6 |
| More developed regions | 82.4 | 115.4 | 33.0 | 53 | 61 | 52.0 | 52.2 |
| Less developed regions | 72.5 | 75.2 | 2.8 | 47 | 39 | 45.7 | 45.5 |
| Least developed countries | 11.0 | 10.5 | -0.5 | 7 | 5 | 46.2 | 46.5 |
| Africa | 16.4 | 17.1 | 0.7 | 11 | 9 | 45.9 | 47.4 |
| Asia | 49.8 | 53.3 | 3.5 | 32 | 28 | 45.1 | 44.7 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 7.0 | 6.6 | -0.3 | 5 | 3 | 49.7 | 50.3 |
| North America | 27.6 | 44.5 | 16.9 | 18 | 23 | 51.0 | 50.4 |
| Europe | 49.4 | 64.1 | 14.7 | 32 | 34 | 52.8 | 53.4 |
| Oceania | 4.8 | 5.0 | 0.3 | 3 | 3 | 49.1 | 51.3 |
| High-income countries | 71.6 | 112.3 | 40.6 | 46 | 59 | 47.9 | 48.7 |
| High-income developed countries | 57.4 | 90.8 | 33.4 | 37 | 48 | 50.1 | 50.8 |
| High-income developing countries | 14.2 | 21.5 | 7.3 | 9 | 11 | 39.3 | 39.8 |
| Upper-middle-income countries | 24.7 | 25.7 | 1.0 | 16 | 13 | 52.5 | 52.9 |
| Lower-middle-income countries | 24.8 | 22.6 | -2.2 | 16 | 12 | 51.7 | 52.9 |
| Low-income countries | 32.7 | 28.0 | -4.7 | 21 | 15 | 46.9 | 47.8 |

*Source*: United Nations, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2005 Revision.*
*Note*: The World Bank classification is used in reporting the distribution by income level.

30. Today, 28 countries host 75 per cent of all international migrants, down from 30 countries in 1990 (see map 1). The United States of America had 15 per cent of all migrants in 1990 and today has 20 per cent. Between 1990 and 2005, 17 countries accounted for 75 per cent of the increase in the number of international migrants. The United States gained 15 million migrants and Germany and Spain followed, with gains above 4 million each.

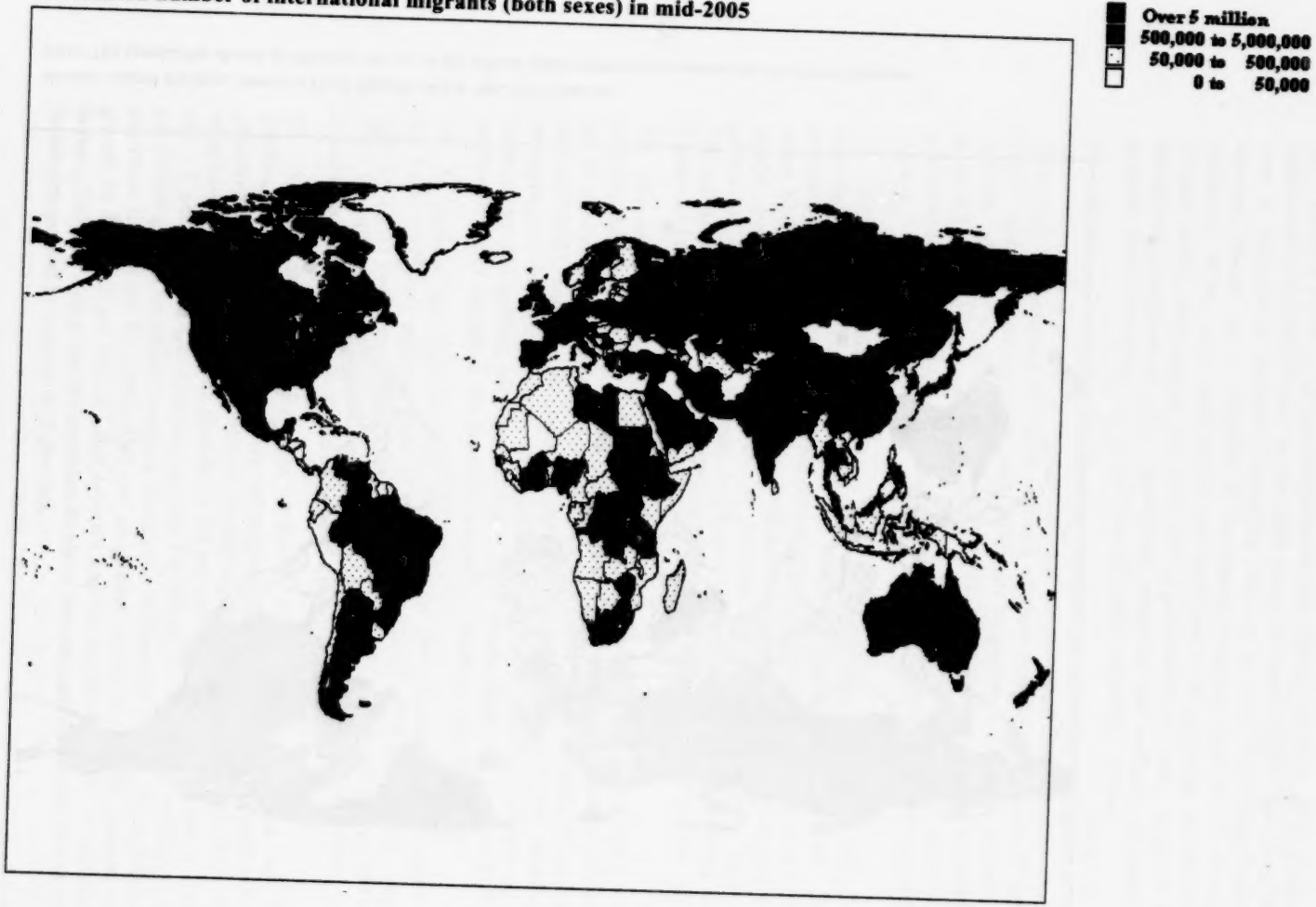
31. The growth of the migrant stock has been mostly concentrated in high-income countries, whether developed or developing (see table 4). By 2005, 48 per cent of all international migrants lived in high-income developed countries and 11 per cent in high-income developing countries. Both groups saw their share of international migrants rise since 1990. By contrast, the shares of international migrants in middle-income and low-income countries fell over the same period. In 2005, 25 per cent of all migrants lived in middle-income countries and just 15 per cent in low-income countries. Between 1990 and 2005, the number of migrants declined in 72 countries, most of them middle-income and low-income countries.

32. Although international migrants are concentrated in relatively few countries, they account for at least 20 per cent of the populations of 41 countries, 31 of which have less than a million inhabitants (see map 2). High concentrations of migrants are found in the Member States of: the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); and in Hong Kong, China; Israel; Jordan; Singapore; and Switzerland. In Australia and Saudi Arabia, countries with overall populations above 10 million, migrants constitute at least a fifth of the population.

33. In 2005, female migrants constituted about half of all international migrants (49.6 per cent). In developed countries, female migrants have outnumbered male migrants since 1990, but in developing countries they account today for just 45.5 per cent of all international migrants. Female migrants are particularly underrepresented in Asia and, in particular, in the GCC countries, where they constitute barely 29 per cent of all international migrants. Generally, where migrant inflows involve mainly contract workers, the proportion of females in the migrant stock is low.

Map 1

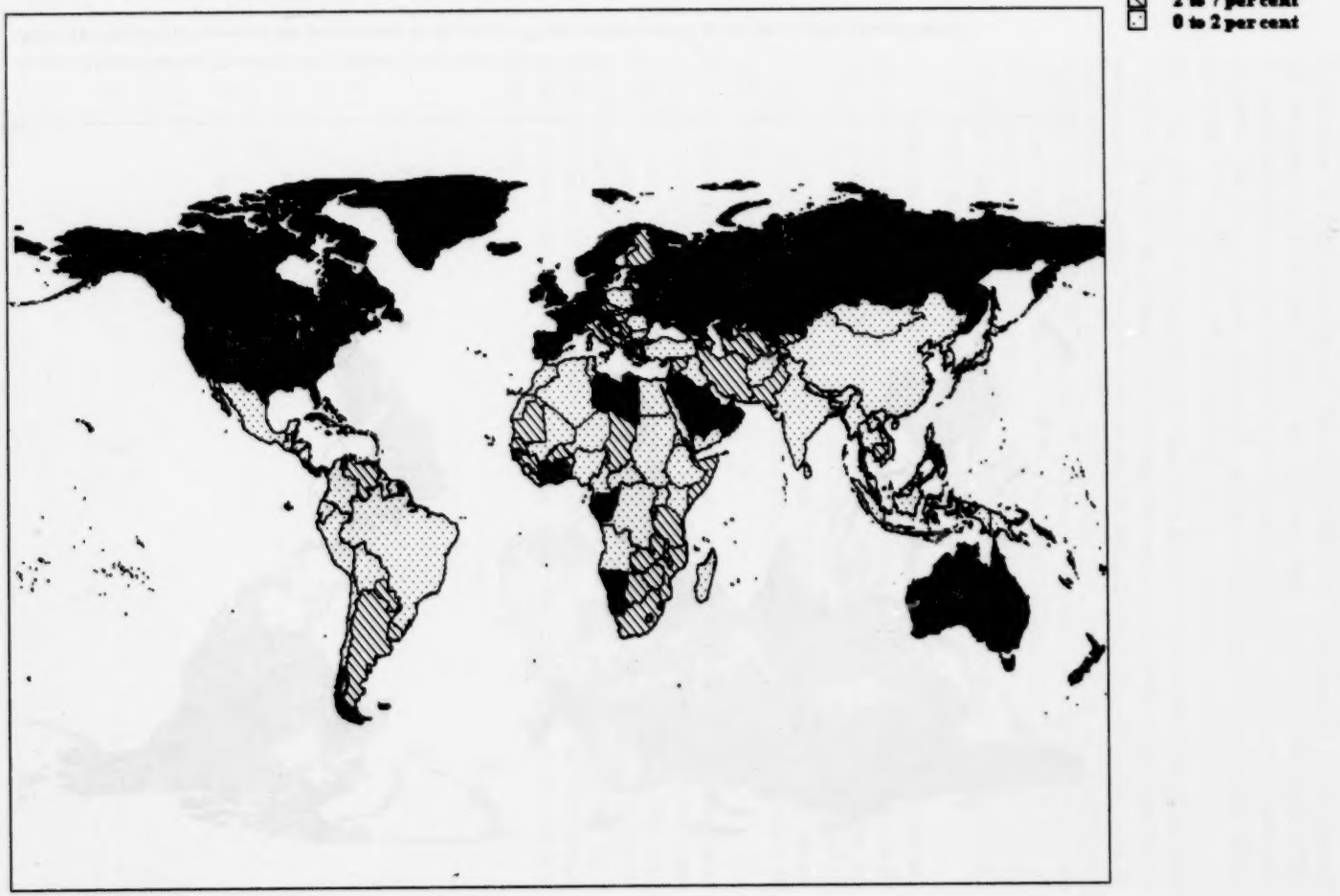
**Estimated number of international migrants (both sexes) in mid-2005**




*Source*: United Nations, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2005 Revision.*

*Note*: The boundaries shown on the present map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map 2
**Number of international migrants as percentage of the total population in 2005**




*Source*: United Nations, *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2005 Revision.*

*Note*: The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

34. There is no set of global estimates for the number of migrants originating in each country. Estimates based on the 2000 round of census suggest that about 80 per cent of migrants in developing countries originate in other developing countries, whereas 54 per cent of migrants in developed countries originate in developing countries. When these proportions are combined with estimates of the global migrant stock, they suggest that there are approximately as many migrants from developing countries in other developing countries (60 million) as there are migrants from developing countries in the developed world (62 million).

35. Because of prevailing low fertility, international migration is making a major contribution to the growth of the population in the more developed regions. Thus, in 2000-2005 it accounted for three quarters of their population growth. If current trends continue, between 2010 and 2030, net migration will likely account for virtually all the population growth in more developed regions. Thereafter, a projected net migration gain of 2.2 million migrants annually is not expected to counterbalance the expected excess of deaths over births in the more developed regions.

36. Europe's population would have been decreasing since 1995 were it not for net migration. Despite averaging some 1.1 million migrants annually since 1995, international migration has not been able to prevent population reductions in Europe since 2000 and will likely continue to fall short in counterbalancing the excess of deaths over births projected for the coming decades. As a result, Europe's population is expected to decrease by 75 million from 2005 to 2050, passing from 728 million to 653 million. Without migration gains, the projected reduction would amount to 119 million.

37. Migration has also been making a major contribution to the population growth of North America and Oceania. In North America, net migration accounts currently for 44 per cent of population growth and this share is expected to attain 50 per cent by 2020-2025 and 78 per cent by 2045-2050. With projected net migration averaging 1.3 million annually, the population of North America is expected to increase by 107 million between 2005 and 2045, rising from 331 million to 438 million. Without migration, the population would increase by just 22 million.

38. In Oceania, net migration accounts for 24 per cent of population growth and this share will likely remain below 50 per cent until 2050. With a projected annual migration gain averaging about 93,000, the population of Oceania is expected to rise from 33 million in 2005 to 48 million in 2050. In the absence of migration, the expected population in 2050 would be close to 42 million.

39. Although the other major areas — Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean — have been experiencing net migration losses since 1950, migration has generally not reduced their population growth significantly. During 2000-2005, net emigration reduced population growth by 2.4 per cent in Africa, 2.7 per cent in Asia and 9.5 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, the reduction of population growth associated with net emigration is expected to increase as fertility continues to decline. By 2045-2050, net emigration could be reducing population growth by nearly 25 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean and by 11 per cent in Asia. Only for Africa are the expected levels of net emigration unlikely to reduce population growth by more than 2 per cent.

40. At the country level, the contribution of international migration to population growth varies considerably. Among the 203 countries or areas with growing populations, net migration accounted for more than 50 per cent of population growth in 33, 20 of which were in Europe and 7 in Asia. Migration can also reduce population growth. In 23 countries with growing populations, net emigration reduced population growth by more than 50 per cent. These countries were mostly small, especially the island States, 11 of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean, six in Oceania and four in Africa. In addition, during 2000-2005, the population of 19 countries decreased and in all but three of them, net migration was negative, implying that it either caused the reduction of population or exacerbated it.

41. International migration affects not only the size and growth of populations, but also their composition by age, since migrants tend to be younger than the population at destination. Sustained in-migration over lengthy periods can therefore slow population ageing and lower dependency ratios. However, for this effect to be significant, it is necessary to sustain high levels of net in-migration for lengthy periods. That has been the experience of the small labour-importing countries of Asia, such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar or the United Arab Emirates. However, in countries with larger populations, the impact of international migration on age structures has generally been modest. Therefore, although international migration can play a role in mitigating population decline or slowing population ageing, it cannot reverse those trends unless its volume increases markedly. Simulations indicate, for instance, that to maintain the size of its population of working age constant, Europe would have to increase its net migration intake fourfold.

## VI. Population ageing

42. The main demographic consequence of fertility decline, especially when combined with increases in life expectancy, is population ageing. In 1950, just over 8 per cent of the world population was aged 60 years or over. By 2007, that proportion had risen to 11 per cent and it is expected to reach 22 per cent in 2050. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over will more than triple, increasing from 705 million in 2007 to almost 2 billion by 2050. By 2050, the number of older persons in the world will exceed the number of children (that is, persons under age 15) for the first time in history. Because developed countries as a whole are more advanced in the path to population ageing, this historic reversal in the proportion of children (17 per cent) and that of older persons (21 per cent) has already happened in that group of countries. By 2050, the proportion of older persons in developed countries (32 per cent) is projected to be double the proportion of children (16 per cent).

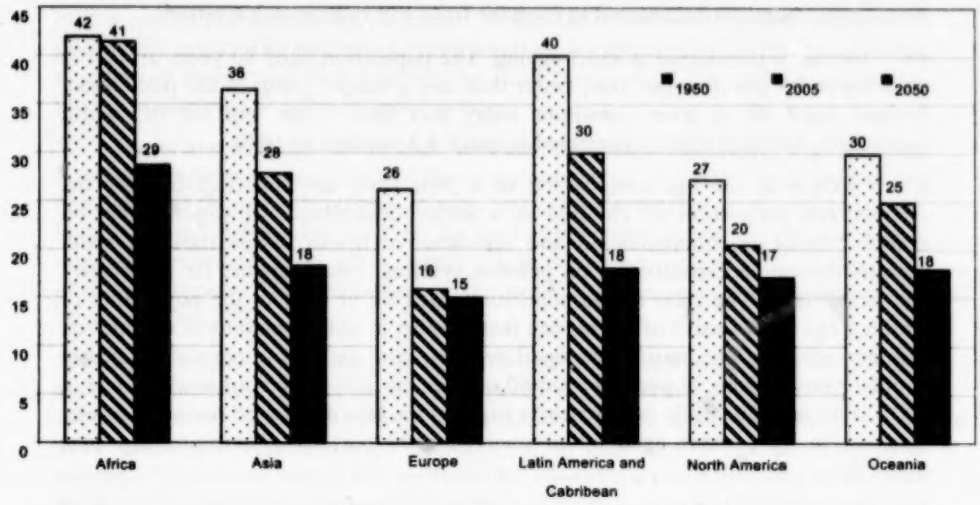
43. Compared to the more developed regions, the developing world is still relatively young. Thus, children constitute 30 per cent of the population of the less developed regions and persons aged 60 or over constitute just 8 per cent. However, because the decline in fertility in developing countries has been very fast, population ageing is expected to accelerate in the coming decades so that by 2050, older persons will account for 20 per cent of their population.

44. Europe is currently the major area with the highest proportion of older persons (21 per cent) and is projected to remain so until 2050, when that proportion will reach 35 per cent. In contrast, only 10 per cent of the population of Africa is projected to be 60 or over by 2050, up from 5 per cent in 2007 (see figure 1).

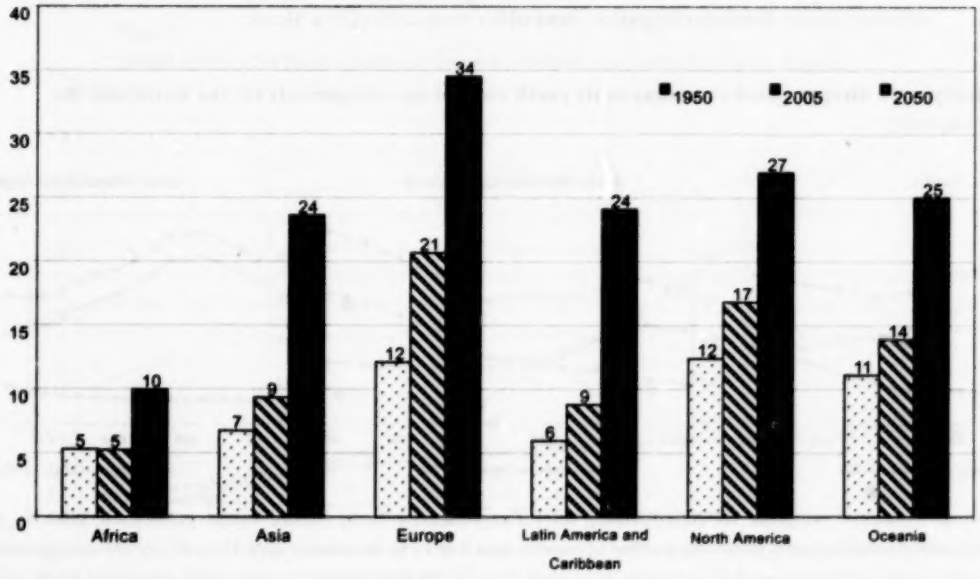
**Figure I**

**Percentage of the population under age 15 and aged 60 or over in the major areas**

A. *Percentage of the population under age 15*




B. *Percentage of the population age 60 or over*



45. Although the proportion of older persons is higher in the more developed regions, their number is large and increasing in the less developed regions. In 2007, 64 per cent of the population aged 60 or over lived in developing countries and by 2050, nearly 80 per cent will do so. Between 2007 and 2050, the older population in developing countries is expected to increase from 453 million to 1.6 billion.

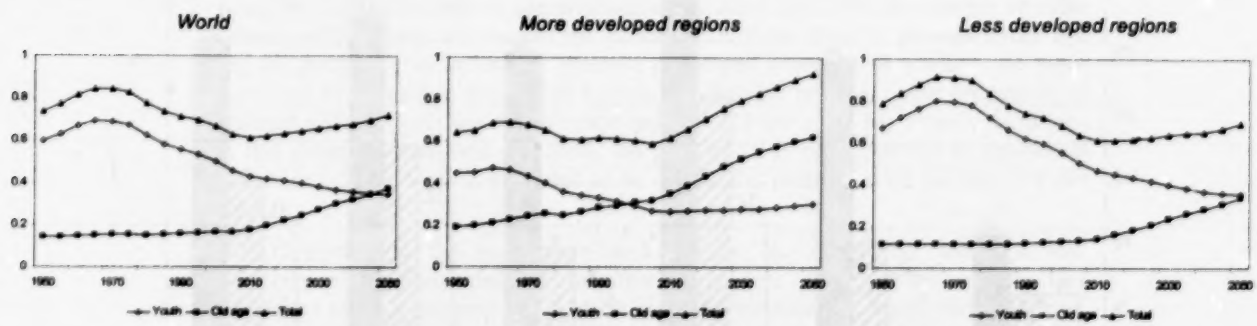
46. The older population is itself ageing. The population aged 80 years or over is growing at 3.9 per cent per year, faster than any younger group in the population. Persons aged 80 or over constitute today less than 2 per cent of the world population, but their share is projected to reach 4.3 per cent in 2050.

47. Changes in the age composition of a population are important because the number and proportion of children is a major determinant of expenditures on schools, childcare, immunization and reproductive health, while those of older persons determine expenditures on pension systems, other support for the elderly and health care. The ratio of the population aged 60 or over to the population of working age is indicative of the burden that support of older generations may put on younger ones. In the more developed regions, that ratio is projected to nearly double, passing from 32 persons aged 60 or over per 100 persons of working age in 2007 to 62 in 2050, while it may nearly triple in the less developed regions, passing from 13 to 34 persons aged 60 or over per 100 persons of working age (see figure 2).

48. Because female life expectancy, especially at older ages, is higher than that of men, the majority of older persons are women. Thus, at ages 60 and over, there are 82 men for every 100 women and women outnumber men by nearly 70 million. The preponderance of women among the older population implies that policies on population ageing need to focus specifically on women's needs, especially considering that older women are more likely to be illiterate than older men, to have a lower labour force participation than older men and to live alone.

Figure 2

**Total dependency ratio disaggregated according to its youth and old-age components for the world and the development regions**




*Source*: ***World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision***, vol. I, ***Comprehensive Tables*** (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.5).

*Note*: The youth dependency ratio relates the number of persons aged 0 to 14 to the number aged 15 to 59; the old-age dependency ratio relates the number of persons aged 60 or over to those aged 15 to 59; the total dependency ratio is the sum of the youth and the old-age dependency ratios.

# VII. Urbanization

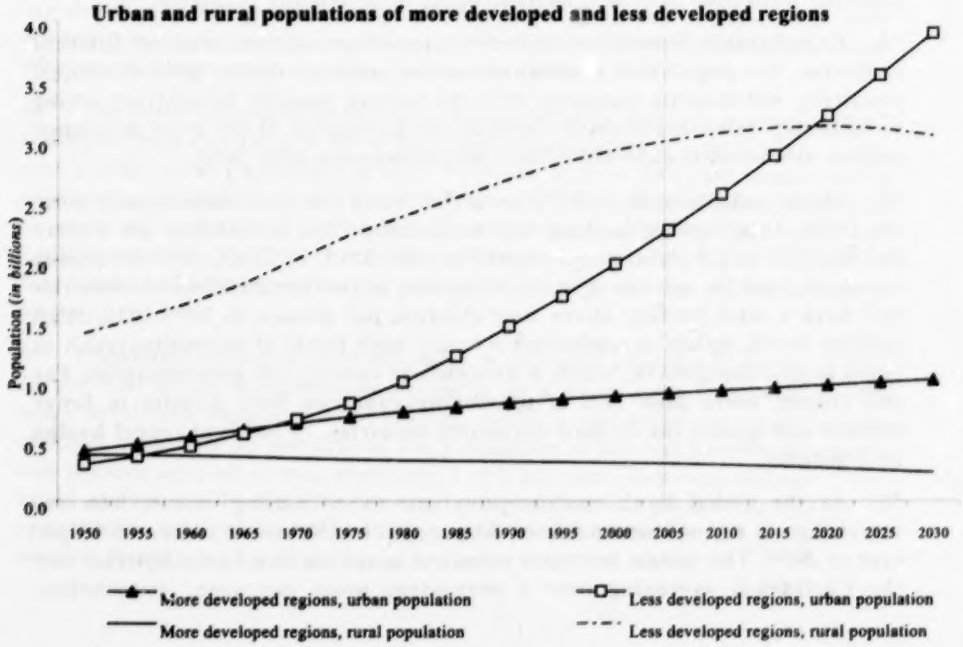
49. In 2008, for the first time in history, the number of urban dwellers is expected to equal and then surpass the number of inhabitants in rural areas. The urbanization of the world population, which began to accelerate in the twentieth century, is proceeding apace. The number of urban dwellers, which reached 3.2 billion in 2005, is expected to increase to 4.9 billion by 2030 and most of the world's population growth is expected to occur in urban areas.

50. There are striking differences between the more developed and the less developed regions in the growth of the urban population. In 2005, 74 per cent of the population of the more developed regions was urban, compared to 43 per cent in the less developed regions. By 2030, 56 per cent of the population in the less developed regions is expected to be urban, nearly triple the proportion in 1950. In the more developed regions, the proportion of the urban population is projected to reach 81 per cent by 2030.

51. Despite their lower levels of urbanization, less developed regions have more than twice the number of urban dwellers in the more developed regions: 2.3 billion compared to 0.9 billion (figure 3). Whereas in 1950 the urban population of the more developed regions was 37 per cent higher than that of the less developed regions (423 million versus 309 million), by 1968 the urban population of the less developed regions had surpassed that of the more developed. Furthermore, the rapid growth of the population of the less developed regions, combined with the near stagnation of the population in the more developed regions, implies that the gap in the number of urban dwellers between the two will continue to increase. By 2030, the urban population in the less developed regions is projected to be nearly four times as large as that in the more developed regions (3.9 billion versus 1 billion).

Figure 3

**Urban and rural populations of more developed and less developed regions**



52. Another important difference between the more developed regions and the less developed regions concerns trends in the growth of the rural population. Whereas the rural population of the more developed regions has been declining steadily since 1950, that of the less developed regions has continued to increase. In 2005, there were 3 billion rural dwellers in developing countries, compared to just 0.32 billion in developed countries. During 2005-2030, the rural population of developed countries will continue decreasing to reach 0.24 billion in 2030. In contrast, the rural population of developing countries will increase until 2019, to reach 3.1 billion, and will then start to decline slowly, so that by 2030 it will be only slightly higher than today.

53. During the next few decades, the urban areas of developing countries will absorb all the population growth expected worldwide. That is, global population growth is becoming largely an urban phenomenon concentrated in the less developed regions. As urbanization proceeds in developing countries, the speed and scale of urban population growth generate important challenges for urban and city planners as well as for Governments, especially in countries where urbanization has not been associated with sustained economic growth and development, such as in most of sub-Saharan Africa and in parts of Asia. In these and other parts of the developing world, increasing urban poverty and the growth of slums are two of the most pressing challenges facing urban areas.

# VIII. Conclusions

54. **World population has reached 6.6 billion and is currently growing at about 1.14 per cent annually. The population is expected to reach 7 billion in 2013 and to surpass 9 billion by 2050, provided fertility continues to decline in the less developed regions. The large majority of the population growth expected from 2005 to 2050 is likely to occur in developing countries.**

55. **Considerable diversity exists in the expected population trends of different countries. The population of many countries, particularly the least developed countries, will increase markedly over the coming decades. In contrast, owing to sustained below-replacement fertility, the population of the more developed regions as a whole is expected to start decreasing soon after 2030.**

56. **Major reductions in fertility occurred in the less developed regions since the 1960s. Total fertility in those regions declined from six children per woman in 1965-1970 to 2.8 children per woman in 2005-2010. By 2005, most developing countries were far advanced in the transition to low fertility, but 44 countries still have a total fertility above four children per woman in 2005-2010. High fertility levels, unless accompanied by very high levels of mortality, result in rapid population growth, which is particularly onerous for poor countries. For this reason, more than half of developing countries have policies to lower fertility and among the 50 least developed countries, 75 per cent report having such policies.**

57. **At the global level, contraceptive prevalence among women who are married or in union increased from 54 per cent in 1990 to an estimated 63 per cent in 2000. The fastest increases occurred in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, averaging over 1 percentage point per year. Nevertheless,**

**contraceptive prevalence in Africa remains very low (27.3 per cent) as does that in the least developed countries (28 per cent).**

58. **The transition to low fertility first started in developed countries. By 1965-1970, their average fertility was 2.4 children per woman. Since then, fertility levels continued to decline and today most developed countries exhibit fertility levels that are not sufficient to ensure the replacement of generations. In 2005-2010, some 85 countries or areas, including 53 located in the more developed regions, had below-replacement fertility. For many of these countries, continued low fertility will result in the eventual reduction of the population and will accelerate population ageing.**

59. **Because of prevailing low fertility, international migration is making a major contribution to the growth of the population in the more developed regions. In 2000-2005, it accounted for three quarters of their population growth. If current trends continue, between 2010 and 2030, net migration will account for virtually all the population growth in more developed regions. Thereafter, a projected net migration gain of 2.2 million migrants annually is not expected to counterbalance the expected excess of deaths over births in the more developed regions.**

60. **At the global level, life expectancy has increased markedly since 1950, reaching 66.5 years in 2005-2010. However, there are major differences in life expectancy between developed and developing countries. In developed countries as a whole, life expectancy today averages 76 years, compared to 65 years in developing countries. Furthermore, life expectancy remains a low 53 years, on average, in the least developed countries, two thirds of which are severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Although continued reductions in mortality are projected in the future, it is not expected that the gap in survivorship that exists between the least developed countries and the rest of the developing world will disappear. Moreover, given the setbacks that have occurred recently in many countries, there is considerable uncertainty about whether the improvements projected may be achieved.**

61. **The main demographic consequence of fertility decline, especially when combined with increases in life expectancy, is population ageing. Today, 11 per cent of the world population is aged 60 years or over and that proportion is expected to reach 22 per cent in 2050. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over will more than triple, passing from 705 million in 2007 to almost 2 billion by 2050. By 2050, the number of older persons in the world will exceed the number of children (that is, persons under age 15) for the first time in history.**

62. **Population ageing is more advanced in the more developed regions, where 21 per cent of the population is currently aged 60 or over. Compared to the more developed regions, the developing world is still relatively young. Thus, children constitute 30 per cent of the population of the less developed regions and persons aged 60 or over constitute just 8 per cent. However, because of the rapid reductions in fertility in developing countries, population ageing is expected to accelerate in the coming decades so that by 2050, older persons will account for 20 per cent of their population.**

**63. Changes in the age composition of a population determine the allocation of expenditures on services needed by the different segments of the population. The ratio of the population aged 60 or over to the population of working age is indicative of the burden that support of older generations may put on younger ones. In the developed countries, that ratio is projected nearly to double, passing from 32 persons aged 60 or over per 100 persons of working age in 2007 to 62 in 2050 and it is expected nearly to triple in the less developed regions, passing from 13 to 34 persons aged 60 or over per 100 persons of working age.**

**64. In 2008, the number of urban dwellers will surpass the number of rural inhabitants for the first time in history. The world's urban population, which reached 3.2 billion in 2005, is expected to increase to 4.9 billion by 2030 and most of the world's population growth is expected to occur in urban areas.**

**65. The level of urbanization is lower in the less developed regions (43 per cent) than in the more developed regions (74 per cent). However, the less developed regions have more than twice the number of urban dwellers in the more developed regions: 2.3 billion versus 0.9 billion. By 2030, the urban population in the less developed regions is projected to be 3.9 billion, four times as large as in the more developed regions (1 billion).**

**66. The rural population in the less developed regions, at 3 billion, is ten times larger than the rural population in the more developed regions (0.3 billion). Furthermore, during 2005-2030, the rural population in developed countries is expected to continue its long-term decreasing trend, reaching 0.24 billion in 2030. In contrast, the rural population of developing countries will increase until 2019, reaching 3.1 billion, and will then start a slow decline.**

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# Economic and Social Council

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**Commission on Population and Development**
**Fortieth session**
9-13 April 2007
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population**

## Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2006: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report reviews the progress achieved by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2006. It covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; world population estimates and projections; population policies; population and development interrelationship; and monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information. The report provides highlights of the major activities of the Population Division, which comprise the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documents and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme in population is to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels with a view to enabling Member States to address population and development issues effectively. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

* E/CN.9/2007/1.

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# I. Introduction

1. The subprogramme on population in the United Nations Secretariat is the responsibility of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The programme of work takes into account the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The programme of work also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, the objective of the subprogramme in population is to promote policy debate on current and foreseeable population issues at the national and international levels, with a view to enabling Member States to address effectively population and development issues. The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. Specifically, the expected accomplishments for the subprogramme in population, as presented in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 9)), are:

(a) Population issues remain high on the international agenda;

(b) Enhanced awareness in the international community and among Member States of progress made in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with agencies, funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in connection with the follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2006, grouped by thematic area. The report provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Population Division, which comprise the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documents and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is contained in the annex.

# II. Fertility and family planning

6. The Population Division undertook the preparation of a report entitled *Childlessness: A Global Survey*, which provides a statistical overview of

childlessness worldwide, focusing on the past few decades. The data show that levels of lifetime childlessness, defined as the percentage of women aged 40-44 years who are childless, are higher in developed countries, where they can sometimes reach 20 per cent. Childlessness is on the rise in a number of developed countries, such as Australia and the Netherlands, but not everywhere; in countries such as Estonia and France no upward trend is evident. In developing countries, levels of childlessness are somewhat lower, but trends are just as varied. In some regions, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Central Asia, childlessness levels stand at about 5 per cent. In other regions, such as South America, Central America and South-eastern Asia, childlessness levels are higher, at around 10 per cent. The study also includes a brief analysis of the aggregate fertility impact of childlessness. In countries where fertility is low, rising voluntary childlessness makes it harder to envisage the return of fertility to replacement level.

7. In the area of fertility and related topics, the Population Division worked on the preparation of two datasets for electronic publication. The first one, the *Database on Fertility 2007*, contains fertility indicators for 192 countries or areas. For the most recent dates available, the dataset provides annual numbers of births, crude birth rates, age-specific fertility rates, total fertility rates, mean ages at childbearing, mean ages at first birth, number of children ever born and percentage of women who are childless. The second dataset, the *Database on Marriage 2007*, contains indicators of marital status for 192 countries or areas. For the most recent data available, the dataset provides the distribution of the population by sex, age group and marital status (single, currently married, divorced or separated, and widowed); age-specific first marriage rates, and the mean age at marriage.

## III. Mortality and health

8. During 2006, progress was made in reviewing the methods of mortality estimation needed to estimate levels and trends of adult mortality in developing countries and in proposing methodological improvements to obtain more timely and robust estimates of age-specific mortality and life expectancy for as many countries as possible. The focus so far has been on developing new and more flexible models of mortality patterns by age that could be used to fit the partial information available for countries with deficient data. In addition, work has advanced in compiling data suitable for the estimation of mortality and documenting its sources and limitations. The results of this work will be summarized in the *World Mortality Report 2007*, which is currently in preparation.

9. In order to facilitate the use of the varied types of data available for the estimation of mortality, the Population Division is developing a database to store both the data and the metadata describing them. Data generated by vital registration systems, population surveillance systems, population censuses and surveys are all being compiled. The database will provide a valuable resource for a broad research programme on mortality and health.

10. In order to promote collaboration on these tasks with other interested institutions within and outside the United Nations system, the Population Division organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Current issues in the estimation of adult mortality", held in New York on 26 and 27 October 2006. The meeting discussed the methodological advances made in modelling adult mortality and the

challenges faced in building a comprehensive database on mortality data. Special attention was given to an assessment of what is known about mortality trends in selected world regions, including sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and the successor States of the former Soviet Union. The challenges of estimating mortality in the presence of HIV/AIDS were also addressed. Participants included experts from academic institutions or research centres in Africa, Europe and North America, as well as representatives of the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Division, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the World Health Organization. A report of the meeting is expected to be published in 2007.

## IV. International migration

11. In its resolution 60/227, the General Assembly decided to convene a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at United Nations Headquarters on 14 and 15 September 2006. The purpose of the Dialogue was to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. The Population Division provided substantive support to the President of the General Assembly in the organization of the High-level Dialogue, as well as for the preparatory events leading up to the Dialogue. The preparatory events, as mandated by resolution 60/227, included the convening of panel discussions in New York (8 June 2006) and Geneva (4 July 2006) and a day of informal interactive hearings with non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, which were held in New York on 12 July 2006. The Population Division provided substantive support in the preparation of the summary of the discussion at the informal interactive hearings (see A/61/187).

12. The High-level Dialogue demonstrated the strong commitment of Member States, United Nations entities, observers, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to examine the interrelations and synergies between international migration and development. There was general consensus that the High-level Dialogue presented a unique opportunity to identify ways and means to maximize the developmental benefits of international migration and to reduce its negative impacts. Participants recognized that international migration was a growing phenomenon, both in scope and in complexity, affecting virtually all countries in the world. They agreed that international migration could be a positive force for development in both countries of origin and countries of destination, provided that it was supported by the right set of policies. While some countries reported about their experience in receiving international migrants, other countries explained how they had benefited from the emigration of their citizens through the financial and other contributions transnational communities had made to the development of their home countries. Participants also discussed ways to mitigate the negative impact of the emigration of highly skilled migrants whose skills were needed in the countries of origin. Participants felt that it was essential to address the root causes of international migration to ensure that migrants moved out of choice rather than out of necessity, and emphasized the importance of creating jobs with decent working conditions in countries of origin. There was widespread support for incorporating international migration issues in national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies. While the contribution of remittances to the well-being of the

families of migrants was recognized, it was felt that their development potential could be enhanced. It was recognized that international migration could be a means of empowerment for migrant women, but that policies were needed to reduce the vulnerability of women to abusive situations stemming from migration. Participants expressed concern about the rise in irregular migration and the exploitation and abuse of migrants in an irregular situation. The Population Division provided substantive support in the preparation of the Chair's summary of the High-level Dialogue (see A/61/515).

13. In preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Population Division issued the *Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development.*[1] The Compendium contains a compilation of all the principles, guidelines, commitments and recommendations for action in the area of international migration that have been adopted by Member States of the United Nations at the various conferences and summits held since 1990, as well as at the population conferences of 1974 and 1984. The Compendium also provides a comparison of those recommendations and commitments with the recommendations made by the Global Commission on International Migration in its report *Migration in an interconnected world: new directions for action.*[2]

14. The Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General entitled *World population monitoring, focusing on international migration and development* (E/CN.9/2006/3) for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. The report addressed the demographic, social and economic aspects of international migration in relation to development. It described recent international migration trends; examined the interactions between international migration and population change, fertility and health; discussed the economic aspects of international migration; and concluded with an overview of policy responses at the national, regional and international levels. A revised version of the report will be issued in 2007 as a regular publication for wider distribution to the public.

15. The Population Division also prepared the report *International Migration and Development* (A/60/871), which was presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on 6 June 2006. The report provides a comprehensive review of studies and analyses on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including levels and trends of international migration; the impact of international migration on the economic and social development of countries of destination and countries of origin; the role of remittances; a discussion of migrant protection, gender aspects of international migration, migrant integration, and the portability of entitlements; the issues arising in combating trafficking in persons; an overview of the international normative framework relative to international migration; and a review of the various modes of intergovernmental cooperation to improve the governance of international migration.

16. The Population Division, together with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, organized an expert group meeting on the theme "International migration and development in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities", held in Beirut, from 15 to 17 May 2006. The meeting, which was attended by 46 government officials, experts and representatives of the United Nations agencies and

[1] ST/ESA/SER.A/255.

[2] Global Commission on International Migration, Geneva (October 2005).

other international organizations, provided a useful platform to exchange views and debate regional issues in preparation for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The meeting examined the very diverse migration patterns found in the Arab region and the extent to which international migration could offer relief to the problems of high unemployment and underemployment faced by many countries in the region. The developmental impact of returning migrants was widely acknowledged and measures to encourage circular and return migration, particularly of those possessing needed skills or capital, were reviewed. Participants welcomed the opportunity to discuss international migration and development policies in the Arab region and proposed to create a regional framework or forum to continue such discussions. The materials relating to the meeting are available on the website of the Population Division (www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm) and will be the object of a future publication.

17. The Population Division prepared a paper on the theme "International migration in the Arab region" for presentation at the above-mentioned meeting. The paper highlighted the diversity of international migration patterns among the countries in the Arab region, which includes some of the other world's major receiving countries. According to estimates prepared by the Population Division, in 2005, the Arab region hosted one in every 10 international migrants in the world and one in every four migrants in the less developed regions. Moreover, the share of migrants in the Arab region, among all migrants in developing countries, had increased from 18 per cent in 1990 to 26 per cent in 2005, with six out of every 10 international migrants in the Arab region living in the member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council. In contrast to the changes in the policy stance of developed countries, countries in the Arab region were more inclined to have the goal of lowering migrant inflows: in 2005, two thirds of the Governments of countries in the region wished to reduce the number of migrants admitted.

18. As part of the supporting activities of the United Nations Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Fondazione Rosselli of Turin, Italy, organized the International Symposium on International Migration and Development in Turin, from 28 to 30 June 2006. The Symposium brought together over 300 government representatives, experts and representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, other relevant international organizations, and civil society organizations to debate, at the substantive level, key issues that Governments, international organizations and civil society faced in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by international migration. Discussions in the more than 30 sessions organized during the Symposium focused on the topics that the General Assembly had identified in resolution 60/227 for consideration at the High-level Dialogue. The major topics discussed included: (a) the management of temporary labour migration; (b) ways to improve the flow and the impact of remittances on development; (c) ways of enhancing the benefits and mitigating the costs of the migration of skilled personnel; (d) strategies to engage transnational communities in the development of countries of origin; (e) measures to promote return migration and its benefits; (f) the need for international collaboration in reducing and preventing the cross-border smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons; and (g) the beneficial aspects of the globalization of education. The Symposium also considered the regional and institutional aspects of international

migration. In discussing both the technical and policy dimensions of international migration issues, the Symposium contributed to building the capacity of national decision makers in preparation for the High-level Dialogue. The materials relating to the Symposium are available on the website of the Population Division set up for the High-level Dialogue (www.unmigration.org). The report of the Symposium will be published in 2007.

19. In order to provide timely and comprehensive information on international migration for use in the preparation of the High-level Dialogue, the Population Division issued the wall chart *International Migration 2006*.[3] The chart had the most recent estimates and information available on indicators relative to international migration and development, including the estimated number of international migrants in each country, estimates of net migration, remittances, government views on immigration and emigration policies, and the status of ratification of relevant United Nations instruments. According to the chart, there were 191 million international migrants in the world as of mid-2005, representing 3 per cent of world population. Sixty per cent of those migrants resided in developed countries. Also in 2005, remittances worldwide were estimated at US$ 226 billion and were an important source of foreign exchange for many Governments and a benefit to the families that received them. The chart also showed that Governments were adopting policies and measures to tailor international migration to their national needs. The wall chart was distributed at the various events leading to the High-level Dialogue and at the Dialogue itself. It proved to be a useful information tool for participants.

20. The Population Division issued on CD-ROM the dataset *International Migration Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision*, together with printed documentation on its contents. The dataset includes annual time-series data on the number of immigrants and emigrants and the net number of migrants classified by country of origin for 15 receiving countries in the developed world. The time-series presented for most receiving countries cover the period 1960-2004.

21. The Population Division issued the proceedings of the fourth coordination meeting on international migration, which was held in New York on 26 and 27 October 2005. The meeting focused on the contributions that the United Nations system could make in preparation to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The proceedings published include both the report of the meeting and the papers contributed by participating organizations and experts attending the meeting.

22. On 20 and 21 November 2006, the fifth coordination meeting on international migration was held in New York to debate the implications of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development for the work of the United Nations system and to exchange information on activities in the area of international migration and development by the various participating entities. The meeting was organized by the Population Division, and it brought together over 80 representatives of different entities from the United Nations system, including the United Nations Secretariat, funds, programmes and agencies, as well as those of other intergovernmental, regional and national organizations active in the area of

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.6.

international migration. The materials relating to the meeting are available on the website of the Population Division. Its proceedings will be published in 2007.

23. In 2006, the Population Division made presentations on international migration and development at several conferences, meetings and forums. It participated in the conference on migration and development organized by the Government of Belgium and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and held in Brussels on 15 and 16 March 2006. During the International Symposium on International Migration and Development held in Turin, the Division made three presentations, on international migration trends, international migration policies and migrant entrepreneurship. The Division also made presentations at the workshop on female migrants, organized jointly by the United Nations Population Fund and IOM and held in New York on 2 and 3 May 2006, and at the World Bank seminar on the theme "The international migration of women: magnitudes, impacts and future trends", held in Washington, D.C., on 29 August 2006. The Population Division was invited to make a presentation at the Ibero-American meeting on migration held in Madrid on 18 and 19 July 2006, and was invited to deliver a keynote address at the third annual conference on international migration, integration and social cohesion organized by the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna on 5 and 6 September 2006. The Population Division and the World Bank organized a side event for the High-level Dialogue on the theme "Migration and development: the challenges for developing countries", which took place on 14 September 2006 and included a presentation by the Division. Another presentation was made by the Population Division at the expert group meeting on full employment and decent work, organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development and held in New York from 10 to 12 October 2006, and at the expert group meeting on the theme "Measuring international migration: concepts and methods", organized by the United Nations Statistics Division in New York and held from 4 to 7 December 2006. The Population Division was also represented at the First International Congress on Human Development held in Madrid from 13 to 16 November 2006, where it made a presentation on the section focusing on migration and development.

## V. World population projections

24. The preparation of biennial population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the mandate of the Population Division. The results of this activity have considerable impact both inside and outside the United Nations system. The official United Nations population estimates and projections are a key input for several analytical reports prepared by the Population Division, such as in the report on *World Population Ageing*, the *World Fertility Report* and the *World Mortality Report*. In addition, important publications prepared by various entities of the United Nations system, including those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNICEF and the World Bank, use as input the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Population Division. Researchers, academics and the media also make ample use of the Population Division's population estimates and projections.

25. In 2006, the Population Division issued the third volume, *Analytical Report*, of *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision*.[4] This volume presents a thorough analysis of the results of the population estimates and projections presented in the previous two volumes. The data cover the 228 countries or areas of the world for the period 1950-2050. The report notes that the world population, which reached 6.5 billion in 2005, will likely reach 9.1 billion in 2050. It stresses the increasing diversity of population dynamics among the countries and regions of the world. Thus, whereas the population of the more developed regions is rising at a slow annual rate of 0.3 per cent, that of the less developed regions is increasing almost five times as fast, at 1.43 per cent per year, and the combined population of the subset of 50 least developed countries is growing even faster, at 2.4 per cent per year. Accentuating these disparities, the population of the more developed regions is projected to decrease after 2030, while that of the less developed regions is projected to increase by 2.6 billion between 2005 and 2050.

26. The *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects* report is in preparation. The results of this *Revision* will be released in 2007, first in electronic form, through an interactive database accessible on the Internet, and on CD-ROM. Selected output from the *2006 Revision* will also be issued in the usual three printed volumes and on a wall chart over the course of 2007.

27. The results of the 2005 revision of *World Urbanization Prospects* were issued in 2006 in both electronic form and in a number of publications. The complete set of results is available on CD-ROM and through an interactive database accessible via the Internet. The publication *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision. Executive Summary, Fact Sheets, and Data Tables* was issued as a working paper and two wall charts, *Urban Agglomerations 2005*[5] and *Urban and Rural Areas 2005*,[6] have been issued. The 2005 revision shows that 49 per cent of the world's population lived in urban areas in 2005 and projects that by 2008 half of the world population will be living in urban settlements. It is projected that by 2030, 60 per cent of the world population will live in urban areas. In 2005, the largest urban agglomeration in the world was Tokyo, with 35.2 million inhabitants. It was followed by Mexico City, with 19.4 million; New York-Newark, with 18.7 million; São Paulo with 18.3 million; and Mumbai with 18.2 million.

28. In order to seek ways of improving the methodology for the preparation of the United Nations estimates and projections of urban and city populations, the Population Division, in collaboration with Columbia University and the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, organized an expert group meeting on the theme "Rethinking the estimation and projection of urban and city populations", which was held in New York on 9 and 10 January 2006. The meeting brought together experts from different disciplines, including demographers, geographers, urban planners, experts in remote-sensing and geographic information systems, as well as representatives of relevant United Nations entities. Participants discussed innovative methods of demographic data collection and considered ways of improving the methodology for the estimation and projection of urban and city populations, with special emphasis on the use of

[4] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.7.
[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.9.
[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.11.

spatially coded data. Participants also considered the practical use of geocoded data for urban and regional planning in developing countries.

## VI. Population policies

29. The Population Division published the 2005 edition of *World Population Policies*,[7] a recurrent survey of the views and policies of Governments on a variety of population and development issues. The study found that a majority of Governments viewed HIV/AIDS as the most significant demographic issue facing them: 88 per cent of those of developing countries and 79 per cent of those of developed countries. Among developing countries, high mortality in childhood and high maternal mortality were the second and third most important issues. In developed countries, in addition to HIV/AIDS, infant and maternal mortality, major population concerns were low fertility, population ageing, and the relatively small or declining numbers of persons of working age. Developing countries are also concerned about their population of working age but mainly because they need to create sufficient jobs for their rapidly growing labour forces. In contrast, developed countries are concerned about the potential shortage of workers as continued low fertility and population ageing lead to a decrease in the numbers of people of working age. A database presenting the data analysed in the report has been issued on CD-ROM and may be downloaded from the Population Division website.

30. A panel discussion on the theme "Challenges of world population in the twenty-first century: the changing age structure of population and its consequences for development" was convened by the Population Division at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 12 October 2006. The panellists noted that many developed countries were already far advanced in the process of population ageing and had, therefore, older populations than had ever existed in the past. In contrast, developing countries were still largely in the midst of the demographic transition, but were experiencing rapid shifts in the relative size of the child, working-age and older segments of the population. In many countries, the implications of population ageing were becoming a major concern and the focus of political debate, as Governments considered how best to address the expected increases in health and pension costs associated with growing numbers of older persons. Panellists discussed the results of recent research aimed at estimating the levels of production and consumption by age in a variety of populations so as to assess better the economic implications of population ageing. Panellists noted that population ageing was having an effect on how Governments shaped policies on pensions, employment, health care and international migration. The presentations by panellists were a useful input in the preparation of the documents for the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development, which will focus on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development.

31. During 2006, the Population Division pursued its work on a study entitled *Child Adoption: Trends and Policies*, to be issued in 2007. The study is based on data for 195 countries, including information on the national legislation governing child adoption, on the age requirements that prospective parents must meet in order to adopt, on the number of domestic and intercountry adoptions and on that of adoptions by step-parents. In addition to the analysis of various issues related to

[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.5.

child adoption, the study presents country profiles for each of the 195 countries with information. The report shows that, while the number of child adoptions has increased in recent years, the majority of adoptions take place in a few countries. The data indicate that most adoptions are domestic. However, during the past decade the number of intercountry adoptions has increased sharply, and in many Western European countries intercountry adoptions now constitute the majority of all adoptions. The study also examines the relation between demographic trends and child adoption, including that between divorce and the number of adoptions by step-parents.

32. The Population Division will issue shortly a wall chart entitled *World Abortion Policies 2007*. The wall chart includes the most recent information on abortion policies for all countries in the world, including the grounds on which induced abortion is permitted, the abortion rate, levels of contraception, total fertility and maternal mortality. The data show that 98 per cent of countries permit abortion to save a pregnant woman's life. Only four countries prohibit abortion in such circumstances. The scope of conditions under which abortion may legally be performed varies widely. Abortion is permitted to preserve the physical health of the mother in 66 per cent of countries; to preserve the mental health of the mother in 64 per cent; in cases of rape or incest in 47 per cent of countries; on grounds of foetal impairment in 44 per cent of countries; for economic or social reasons in 34 per cent of countries; and on request in 28 per cent of countries.

## VII. Population and development

33. The Population Division published the wall chart *Population Ageing 2006*,[8] which updates and expands the data presented in the 2002 edition. For 228 countries or areas in the world, the wall chart presents data on the absolute and relative numbers of older persons; the proportions of older persons who are currently married, living alone and in the labour force classified by sex; the sex ratio of populations aged 60 or over and of those aged 80 or over; the potential support ratio; the statutory retirement age for men and women; and the male and female life expectancies at age 60. The chart shows that, at the world level, there were 688 million persons aged 60 or over in 2006 and that their number will likely reach nearly 2 billion by 2050. Between 2006 and 2050, most countries will experience a substantial decline in the potential support ratio; that is, in the number of persons of working age per older person. Although the world has experienced dramatic improvements in longevity, the data presented indicate that large differences in life expectancy at age 60 still exist, especially between developed and developing countries. In addition, marked differences between those two groups of countries are also evident with respect to levels of solitary living among older persons and the labour force participation of older persons.

34. The Population Division completed a new edition of *World Population Ageing 1950-2050*, which will be issued in 2007. It updates the 2002 edition of the same title.[9] As in the case of the original report, the new edition describes global trends in population ageing and includes a series of indicators of the ageing process by development group, major area, region and country. It is intended to provide the

[8] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XIII.2.

[9] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.XIII.3.

demographic foundation for the follow-up activities of the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

35. The Population Division carried out the substantive editing of the papers presented at the expert group meeting on the theme "The social and economic implications of changing population age structure", which took place in Mexico City from 31 August to 2 September 2005. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Consejo Nacional de Población of Mexico, with the financial support of the National Institute of Aging, of the United States. The proceedings of the meeting, which are expected to be released in 2007, will contain a report of the meeting as well as edited versions of the papers presented by invited experts.

36. The Population Division continued its tradition of organizing a "member-initiated meeting" to present and discuss its work at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, which was held in Los Angeles, California, in 2006. The meeting took place on 30 March 2006, and focused on the major findings of the report entitled Living Arrangements of Older Persons around the World,[10] which presented a global survey and analysis of the patterns and trends in the living arrangements of people aged 60 or over. The meeting was attended by 88 professionals in population and associated fields from universities and research institutions around the world.

37. The Population Division released an interactive online version of its database on population, resources, environment and development, known as PRED Bank. The database provides a selection of country-level statistical indicators (mostly presented as time-series) showing the current situation and recent trends in numerous aspects of population, resources, environment and development. The PRED Bank includes data from the most recent United Nations population estimates and projections (the *2004 Revision*), as well as data maintained in the Population Division databases on international migration, contraceptive prevalence, age at marriage and population policies. It also includes data on natural resources and economic and social development obtained primarily from sources maintained by other United Nations entities as updated in 2004 and 2005. This interactive database facilitates the full consideration and integration of population factors in plans to implement the United Nations development agenda and the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Social Development.

# VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

## A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

38. The annual world population monitoring report produced by the Population Division for the Commission on Population and Development was devoted in 2006 to the topic of international migration and development, which was the special theme of the thirty-ninth session of the Commission (see para. 14 above).

[10] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XIII.9.

39. The Population Division prepared the world population monitoring report for the fortieth session of the Commission. This report (E/CN.9/2007/3) focuses on the changing age structures of populations and their implications for development, and is a timely contribution to the intergovernmental activities marking the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

## B. Dissemination of population information and data

40. During 2006, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide timely access by Government officials and civil society to population information. The Population Division website provides, among other things, information on recently issued Population Division publications. All or selected parts of publications are posted on the website, including highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings, proceedings of meetings, population reports, wall charts, datasets and interactive databases. The site also provides information about the Commission on Population and Development, including the official documentation for the sessions and guidance for non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in the work of the Commission. An important addition to the Population Division website in 2006 was the portal to the various web pages created for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, its preparatory activities and its follow up (see www.unmigration.org). Other important resources added to the website in 2006 are expanded versions of the interactive databases on urban and rural populations, on estimates of the number of international migrants, and on population, resources, environment and development. These interactive databases enable users to customize tables to suit their needs by selecting the appropriate variables, countries and time periods, and to view or download the results for further processing.

41. Complementing the Population Division website in providing easy and timely access to population information is the Population Information Network. It is a portal to the wealth of population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Analysis of traffic to the Network website shows that the Network is a major channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations, with an annual number of visits in excess of 400,000.

42. The Population Division continues to maintain an e-mail announcement service, alerting subscribers to the release of new Population Division publications or datasets. The service currently has over 1,400 subscribers, located in developed countries and in over 70 developing countries. Information on Population Division activities and outputs of particular relevance to developing countries is also distributed regularly through the use of extensive mailing lists so as to reach a variety of constituencies.

43. *MORTPAK for Windows*, the Population Division software package for demographic estimation, continued to be disseminated worldwide for teaching and research purposes.

# Annex

## Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2006)*

### Expert group meetings

Expert group meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region: challenges and opportunities, Beirut, 15 to 17 May 2006.

Current issues in the estimation of adult mortality, New York, 26 and 27 October 2006.

International Symposium on International Migration and Development, Turin, Italy, 28-30 June 2006.

Panel discussion on challenges of world population in the twenty-first century: the changing age structure of population and its consequences for development, New York, 12 October 2006.

Fifth coordination meeting on international migration, New York, 20 and 21 November 2006.

### Research studies

*World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision. Analytical Report.* ST/ESA/SER.A/246. Sales No. E.05.XIII.7.

*World Urbanization Prospects: The 2005 Revision. Executive Summary. Fact Sheets. Data Tables*. ST/ESA/P/WP/200.

*Compendium of Recommendations on International Migration and Development: The United Nations Development Agenda and the Global Commission on International Migration compared.* ST/ESA/SER.A/255. Sales No. E.06.XIII.7.

*World Population Policies 2005*. ST/ESA/SER.A/254. Sales No. E.06.XIII.5.

### Databases

*Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision*. CD-ROM.

*Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2005 Revision. CD-ROM Documentation.*

*International Migrations Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision*. CD-ROM. POP/DB/MIG/FL.

*International Migrations Flows to and from Selected Countries: The 2005 Revision. CD-ROM Documentation.*

*World Population Policies 2005*. CD-ROM.

*National Trends In Population, Resources, Environment and Development 2005: Country Profiles.*

* Not including reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

**Wall charts**

*Population Ageing 2006*. ST/ESA/SER.A/251. Sales No. E.06.XIII.2.

*Urban Agglomerations 2005*. ST/ESA/SER.A/257. Sales No. E.06.XIII.9.

*Urban and Rural Areas 2005*. ST/ESA/SER.A/258. Sales No. E.06.XIII.11.

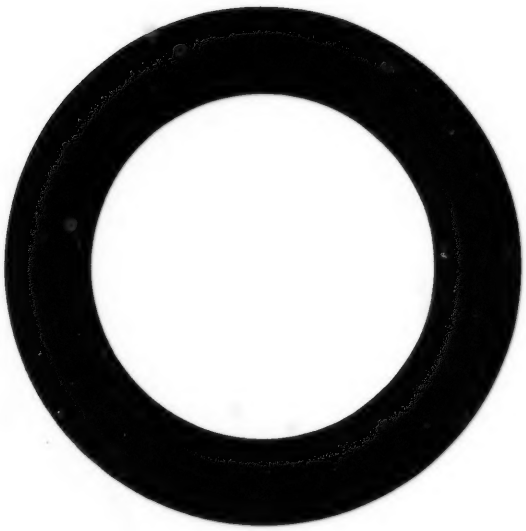
*International Migration 2006*. ST/ESA/SER.A/256. Sales No. E.06.XIII.6.

**Periodicals**

*Population Bulletin of the United Nations, Prospects for Fertility Decline in High Fertility Countries*. Special issue Nos. 46/47, 2006. ST/ESA/SER.N/46-47. Sales No. S.02.XIII.11.

*Population Newsletter*, No. 80 (December 2005).

*Population Newsletter*, No. 81 (June 2006).



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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population**

# Draft programme of work of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the biennium 2008-2009

## Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the biennium 2008-2009, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Commission on Population and Development in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles shall be identical to the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/235, approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009 containing the narrative of the population subprogramme, which describes the objectives, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and strategy of the subprogramme.

2. The draft programme of work, which includes information on outputs, has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 6, Population, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

3. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and review the proposed outputs to be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

* E/CN.9/2007/1.

07-21228 (E) 060207

# Annex

## Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### Objective

1. The aim is to enable the international community to better understand and effectively address current and foreseeable population issues and population dimensions of development at the national and international levels.

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Effectively facilitated review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly | (a) Improved quality of support and servicing for the Commission on Population and Development, including the provision of timely, relevant, technically sound and policy-oriented documentation for its work |
| (b) Enhanced awareness of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding, at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth and population ageing | (b) Increased influence of the work of the Population Division on the work of other stakeholders in the area of population |
| (c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, civil society and academia | (c) Increased demand for population publications or digital information products |

#### External factors

2. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that Member States will remain committed to the goals and objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development and the relevant goals of the outcome documents of the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit.

#### Strategy

3. The Population Division is responsible for the subprogramme. The objective will be achieved by:

(a) Providing substantive support to United Nations bodies, especially to the Commission on Population and Development, and assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(b) Facilitating the discussion of key or emerging population issues by experts or government representatives;

(c) Preparing comprehensive studies on population issues and population trends relating to fertility, mortality, international and internal migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing, population prospects, population policy and population in relation to development;

(d) Disseminating population information and policy-relevant findings in the area of population, in particular through the Population Division website;

(e) Building capacity to address population issues at the national level through workshops or the dissemination of technical material, such as manuals and software.

**Outputs**

4. During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (regular budget):

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: Second Committee of the General Assembly (4);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report to the General Assembly on international migration (1);

(ii) Economic and Social Council: substantive servicing of meetings (4);

(iii) Commission on Population and Development:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings of the Commission (20) and intersessional meetings of the Bureau of the Commission (8);

b. Parliamentary documentation: progress reports on activities in the field of population (2); proposed programme of work in population for the biennium 2010-2011 (1); report of the intersessional meetings of the Bureau of the Commission (2); report on world demographic trends (1); reports on world population monitoring (2);

(iv) Ad hoc expert group meetings (8);

(b) Other substantive activities (regular budget):

(i) Recurrent publications: *Concise Report on World Population Monitoring* (2); *Population Newsletter* (4); *International Migration Report 2008* (1); report on the coordination meeting on international migration (2); report on the coordination meeting on estimation of adult mortality (2); *World Fertility Report 2009* (1); *World Population Ageing 2009* (1); *World Population Policies 2009* (1); *World Population Prospects: the 2008 revision*, vol. I: *Comprehensive Tables*, vol. II: *Sex and Age Distributions of Populations*, vol. III: *Analytical Report* (each) (3); *World Mortality Report 2009* (1); and *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2007 revision* (1);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: *Emerging Issues in Fertility and Family Planning* (1); *Emerging issues in International Migration* (1); *Emerging issues in Mortality and Health* (1); *Emerging issues in Population and Development* (1); and *Emerging issues in Population Policies* (1);

(iii) Booklets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits: provision of ad hoc information services and data in the field of population (1); wall chart on contraceptive use, 2009 (1); wall chart on fertility patterns, 2009 (1); wall chart on population ageing, 2009 (1); wall chart on urban agglomerations, 2009 (1); wall chart on urban and rural areas, 2009 (1); wall chart on world population, 2008 (1); wall chart on population policy, 2009 (1); wall chart on mortality, 2009 (1);

(iv) Technical materials: database on contraceptive use, 2009 (1); database on fertility, 2008 (1); database on marriage, 2008 (1); database on world population policies, 2009 (1); database on international migration, 2008 (1); database on total migrant stock, 2008 (1); database on mortality, 2009 (1); database on population and development (1); *World Population Prospects: the 2008 revision* (CD-ROM) (1); *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2009 revision* (web-interactive version) (1); *World Urbanization Prospects: the 2009 revision* (CD-ROM) (1); *World Population Policies, 2009* (web-interactive version) (1); *World Population Prospects, 2008 revision* (web-interactive version) (1); *Total migrant stock, 2008* (web-interactive version);

(c) Technical cooperation:

(i) Group training workshops or seminars;

(ii) Advisory services in population and development.